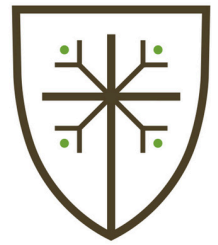


# GOD ON THE MARGINS

*A story of Jonah, Habakkuk, and Esther*

# SERMON NOTES



November 16, 2025

## SERMON INFO

**TITLE**  
"In The World"

**PREACHER**  
Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

**TEXTS**  
Esther 4:1-16  
Philippians 2:12-16  
John 17:10-19

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like for you personally to bear God's name in the place(s) he has put you?
2. What are the hardest challenges to doing so?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

As we near the end of the book of Esther, Tim revisited our passage from last week with a different angle - how are we called, like Esther, to bear God's name in the world and are we doing so?

### The Place

Esther's story takes place 100 years after the Jews are taken into captivity. The Persians have told them they are now free to go back but some, like Esther and Mordecai, have chosen to stay put. God has placed Esther exactly where he wants her to be to accomplish his purposes. At the beginning of this chapter, Mordecai is sitting just outside the entrance of the king's gate. He doesn't have access, but Esther does. He tells her, that to help orchestrate the rescue of God's people might be the very reason she's come behind the gate. In fact, the phrase that reads "have come" should more accurately be translated as "have been brought." God has brought her there. We too have each been brought behind the gates and walls of influence of some person or place and the Lord desires to use us. Regardless of what we've done to end up there, it isn't too late. You are not disqualified. But you do have to choose at some point what name you're going to bear in the world.

### The Risk

The main risk of being where Esther is - in the world - is the risk of becoming indistinguishable from it. God does not take his people out of the world. In his prayer for his disciples, Jesus prays that they would be in it but protected from it, that they would keep God's name as the primary identity-forming marker in their life. And he prays that they would be kept from the evil one. There are no pure pockets of life and culture in this world. It is all "occupied territory" and God desires every piece of every place back. We can never imagine that being a Christian is safe. We're called to give up our lives, whatever our life in this world looks like. Esther is faced with giving up everything she's worked for in this world. Are we, as Christians, willing to take a stand for the truth revealed to us in Scripture? Are we willing to lose everything this world can give us in order to bear his name?

### The Change

Mordecai warns Esther not to make the mistake of thinking she will escape loss. All of us will lose everything in this world one way or another. The world and everything in it is passing away. At some point, we have to truly choose who is going to be our salvation and our life. God is silently and secretly working in Esther to wake her up from spiritual slumber. And when he does, he breaks in on her and takes hold of her soul, utterly changed by faith. She willingly relinquishes all that the world can make of her or give her in order to follow God's good purpose for her.

We are told in our Epistle reading from Philippians to "work out our own salvation." We don't work out the reality or the establishment of our salvation, but we do work out the implications of it, what it means for us now that we belong to Jesus.

In closing, Tim said that when asked what sort of mission work we do as a church, he answers, "Our Benediction." We are sent out into the places of our lives each week to be the body of Christ in homes, schools, work places, and neighborhoods. We are sent out not to make names for ourselves, but to honor the name which we already carry, that of God himself.