



Take It Deeper //

“For Such a Time As This”

Opening Question:

How might Esther's story challenge us to be more courageous in our faith, even when facing difficult circumstances?

Key Takeaways:

1. The book of Esther teaches us to be selfless, not selfish.
2. God can use anyone who is willing and obedient, regardless of their background or circumstances.
3. Esther demonstrated qualities of respect, wisdom, humility, compassion, and courage.
4. God's fingerprints are evident throughout the story, even though He is not explicitly mentioned.
5. Like Esther, we are called "for such a time as this" to make a difference in our spheres of influence.

Discussion Questions:

1. What aspects of Esther's story stood out to you the most? Why?
2. Pastor Dana highlighted five qualities of Esther: respectful, wise, humble, compassionate, and courageous. Which of these qualities do you find most challenging to embody in your own life? How can you grow in that area?
3. Discuss the concept of being "willing and obedient" as mentioned in Isaiah 1:19. How does this apply to your life currently?
4. Pastor Dana mentioned that God's fingerprints are all over the book of Esther, even though He's not explicitly mentioned. Can you think of times in your own life where you've seen God working

behind the scenes?

5. How does the story of Esther challenge our tendency to be selfish rather than selfless?
6. Pastor Dana drew parallels between Esther and Jesus. What similarities and differences do you see in their roles as saviors for their people?
7. Reflect on the question: "Who are you specifically called to for such a time as this?" Share your thoughts with the group.

Practical Applications:

1. Identify Your "Mordecai": Who in your life provides godly wisdom and guidance? Make an effort to seek their counsel this week.
2. Be an "Esther" This Easter: Take the challenge to invite someone to Easter services or share the gospel message with them this week.
3. Daily Selflessness: Each day this week, intentionally choose to do something selfless for someone else, putting their needs before your own.
4. Prayer Focus: Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal where He has placed you "for such a time as this" and for courage to fulfill that purpose.
5. Study Esther: Commit to reading through the book of Esther this week, noting God's providential work throughout the story.

Here's a devotional guide based on this week's message in our Cover-to-Cover series:

Day 1: For Such a Time as This

Reading: Esther 4:12-17

Devotional: Esther's courage in the face of potential death reminds us that God often calls us to step out in faith for a greater purpose. Like Esther, we may find ourselves in situations where we must choose between comfort and conviction. Reflect on areas in your life where God might be calling you to take a stand. How can you cultivate the courage to say, "If I perish, I perish" when facing difficult choices for God's kingdom? Remember, you may have been placed in your current circumstances "for such a time as this." Pray for discernment to recognize God's calling and the strength to respond faithfully.

Day 2: The Unseen Hand of God

Reading: Esther 6:1-14

Devotional: Though God is never explicitly mentioned in the book of Esther, His providential hand is evident throughout the story. The king's sleepless night and the timing of Haman's arrival demonstrate God's behind-the-scenes work. In our lives, too, God often moves in ways we can't immediately see. Reflect on past experiences where you've recognized God's intervention only in hindsight. How might this perspective change the way you view current challenges? Trust that even when God seems

silent, He is actively working for your good and His glory. Ask for eyes of faith to perceive His presence in both the mundane and the miraculous moments of your day.

Day 3: From Orphan to Queen

Reading: Esther 2:5-18

Devotional: Esther's journey from orphan to queen illustrates God's ability to elevate the humble and use the unlikely for His purposes. Despite her background, Esther found favor and was positioned to save her people. This echoes God's heart for the marginalized and His pattern of using the "foolish things of the world to shame the wise" (1 Corinthians 1:27). Consider how God has worked through your own weaknesses or humble circumstances. How can you cultivate humility while remaining open to the great things God might want to do through you? Pray for a heart that's willing to be used by God, regardless of your perceived qualifications or status.

Day 4: The Power of Fasting and Prayer

Reading: Esther 4:15-17, Matthew 6:16-18

Devotional: Before approaching the king, Esther called for a three-day fast among her people. This spiritual preparation underscores the power of communal prayer and fasting. In times of crisis or important decisions, seeking God through these spiritual disciplines can provide clarity and strength. Reflect on situations in your life that might benefit from dedicated prayer and fasting. How might stepping away from physical comforts draw you closer to God's heart? Consider organizing a prayer group or participating in a church-wide fast to experience the unity and power that comes from seeking God together.

Day 5: Reversing the Irreversible

Reading: Esther 8:1-17

Devotional: The reversal of Haman's decree showcases God's power to turn seemingly hopeless situations around. What appeared to be an irreversible edict of destruction became an opportunity for the Jews to defend themselves and prosper. This dramatic turnaround points to the ultimate reversal in salvation history – Christ's victory over sin and death. Meditate on areas in your life or world that seem beyond hope. How does the gospel give you a different perspective on these situations? Pray for faith to believe in God's power to bring light out of darkness and life out of death, both in your personal circumstances and in the broader world.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the example of Esther and ask for His help in embodying the qualities she demonstrated. Pray for opportunities to be selfless and make a difference in others' lives this week.

