

Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: "Your Moment", Week 4 – August 24, 2025 Mordecai, Esther, and Nehemiah

Opening Prayer: Begin your time by asking God to open your heart and mind to hear what He wants to say through His Word and to give courage to respond obediently to the moments He places before you.

Key Theme: God invites ordinary people to participate in His divine purposes through moments of faith - some public, some private - and our response to these moments defines our life and legacy.

Discussion Questions: What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why did that particular point resonate with you? Pastor Jordan mentioned that "not all defining moments in our lives are on display for others to see." Can you think of a time when you faced a significant choice that no one else would have known about? How did you handle it?

Mordecai's Moment: Honoring Authority: Mordecai overheard a plot against King Xerxes and had to decide whether to report it or stay silent. What factors might have influenced his decision either way? Personal Reflection: Think about your workplace, community, or other areas where you're under authority. Have you ever been in a situation where you had the opportunity to "do the right thing," but no one would have known if you didn't? How did you respond? Mordecai honored the king's authority while maintaining his faith (he wouldn't bow to Haman). How do we balance respecting earthly authority with staying true to our convictions? Can you think of practical examples?

Esther's Moment: Speaking Up for Others: Esther risked her life to save her people, even though she could have stayed silent and been safe. What do you think gave her the courage to act? Application Question: Esther was told she was in her position "for such a time as this." How might God be positioning you in your current circumstances - your job, neighborhood, family situation, or community - for a specific purpose? Pastor Jordan said, "Some of you are sitting in a place right now in your life, a position that God has placed you in for such a time as this." What opportunities do you see around you where God might be calling you to speak up or take action for others?

Nehemiah's Moment: Responding to Burden: Nehemiah's moment began not with action, but with feeling burdened about Jerusalem's condition - a place he'd never even seen. What does this teach us about how God often begins to work in our hearts? Personal Reflection: What situations, needs, or problems burden your heart? How might God be using that burden to call you to action? Nehemiah could have easily thought, "This isn't my responsibility – I've never even been to Jerusalem." What excuses do we sometimes make to avoid responding to the burdens God places on our hearts?

The Bigger Picture: God's Sovereignty: Pastor Jordan emphasized how these three stories are connected – Mordecai's faithfulness ultimately helped preserve the Jewish people who would bring forth Jesus. How does seeing this bigger picture encourage you when your own faithful moments seem small or unnoticed? Discussion: How do you balance trusting in God's sovereignty with taking personal responsibility for the opportunities He places before you?

Personal Application: Pastor Jordan mentioned several "I should do... but will I?" moments. Complete this sentence based on your current situation: "I should ______, but will I?" What fears or obstacles typically hold you back from responding obediently to the opportunities God presents? Action Step: Based on today's discussion, what is one specific step you can take this week to be faithful in a "moment" God has placed before you?

Closing Reflection: How has this study of Mordecai, Esther, and Nehemiah changed your perspective on the "ordinary" moments and opportunities in your daily life? What encouragement would you offer to someone who feels like their opportunities to serve God are too small or insignificant to matter?

Closing Prayer: Thank God for His sovereignty and how He weaves our lives together for His purposes. Ask for sensitivity to recognize the moments He places before us. Pray for courage to respond obediently, whether the moment is public or private. Request wisdom to honor earthly authority while staying faithful to God. Pray for those who are in positions of influence "for such a time as this"

Additional Scripture for Reflection: Romans 13:1-7 (Submitting to authority); 1 Peter 2:13-17 (Living as free people); Ecclesiastes 3:1 (A time for everything); Proverbs 31:8-9 (Speaking up for others)







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