

February 2021

## *Church Life*

- If you are a guest with us today, we want to **WELCOME** you! If you haven't done so already, we invite you to stop by our Guest Reception Center in the lobby at the scooter table following the service. Someone will greet you, answer any questions you may have, and give you a gift as a thank-you for worshipping with us today!
- Want to know what is going on at Grace? Weekly, we email out the E-news. The E-news is a sermon summary written by one of our amazing attenders. Please fill out your connection card if you would like to receive this!
- **Please join Grace in Prayer starting February 17!** The Prayer Ministry at Grace wants you to pray for our community for 40 days leading up to Palm Sunday! Pick up a copy of "Seek God for the City 2021" to help focus and unite us in prayer. The 64-page prayer guide makes it easy for you to pray rich, biblical prayers for spiritual awakening throughout our city. And it's dated to unite prayer worldwide, during the 40 days to Palm Sunday, February 17 – March 28, 2021. We have a limited number of booklets available! (also available in ebook form - contact Beth Webb or Pastor John)
- Would you like an opportunity to support **adoptive** and **foster** families? Now is your chance!! Grafted in Grace, a ministry of Grace Chapel, is once again partnering with both Mosaic and Hope Packages to provide resources for foster and adoptive families within our community. Mosaic, located in Zeeland, has a clothing co-op where foster and adoptive families can shop, and Hope Packages works throughout West Michigan to provide backpacks full of essential items for the first night of children entering foster care. Here are the items we would love to collect for these ministries: new socks/undies (kids sizes 2T-14/16), new or gently used jeans boys/girls (sizes 4T-16 kids), gently used Summer clothing (0-16 kids), and new backpacks (regular size for teens). Please drop off your items during any of the services on March 4, 7, 11, and 14. Thank you so much for supporting our community's foster and adoptive families! (Any questions, please email us at [graftedingrace@gracechapelzeeland.com](mailto:graftedingrace@gracechapelzeeland.com))
- Need an encouraging word? Pastor Adam does a daily encouragement and devotion on Facebook Monday - Thursday at 8:00 a.m. To see this, friend "Adam Jenny Grill" or like the "Grace Chapel Zeeland" Facebook page.



February 2021

**God doesn't call the \_\_\_\_\_, He \_\_\_\_\_ the called.**

Deborah – Judges 4-5

**Judges 4:4,** <sup>4</sup> Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

**Judges 5: 31,** Then the land had peace forty years.

Miriam – Micah 6:4, Exodus 2:1-10, 15: 20-21, Numbers 12, 20: 1-2.

**Esther 1: 10-12, 22,** <sup>10</sup> On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him—Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar and Karkas— <sup>11</sup> to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. <sup>12</sup> But when the attendants delivered the king's command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

<sup>22</sup> He sent dispatches to all parts of the kingdom, to each province in its own script and to each people in their own language, proclaiming that every man should be ruler over his own household,

**Esther 2:1-8,** Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. <sup>2</sup> Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. <sup>3</sup> Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. <sup>4</sup> Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it. <sup>5</sup> Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, <sup>6</sup> who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. <sup>8</sup> When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem.

**When you are thrust into a situation you do NOT want to be in... how do you respond?**

<sup>9</sup> She pleased him and won his favor. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem. <sup>10</sup> Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. <sup>11</sup> Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.

**Godly leaders \_\_\_\_\_ the position God has them in.**

**Esther 8,** <sup>11</sup> The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies. <sup>12</sup> The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. <sup>13</sup> A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. <sup>14</sup> The couriers, riding the royal horses, went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. <sup>15</sup> When Mordecai left the king's presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration. <sup>16</sup> For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor. <sup>17</sup> In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.

### Life Application:

Esther's life had some crazy twists and turns, and I am sure your life has as well. Pray this week for God to give you the strength and fortitude to follow Him no matter what life throws at you.



**February 2021**

Reluctant Leaders – Esther

**The Key Point of this series is: God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

1. Discuss this key point, do you see this as true for everyone or more as, true for some but not for others? If this is true for everyone, why does our world still look like it does? If it is only true for some, what would this say about God?
2. Why do you think there is a reluctance to step up and lead and do you see this as a problem in the church?
3. Pastor Adam said, "A reluctance to lead is a mankind issue, it is a struggle to follow God. Because we think God could never use someone as broken as us. Have you ever thought something similar?"

**READ: Esther 1:10-12, 22**

4. Throughout the Bible we see good leaders and bad leaders. There are lessons to be learned from both. What do we learn from Xerxes?

**READ: Esther 2:1-11**

5. Esther is taken, against her will. Her hopes and dreams shattered in a moment. She did not rebel because it wasn't her decision. Whose was it?

**KEY QUESTION: When you are thrust into a situation you do NOT want to be in, how do you respond? Discuss.**

6. How do you respond when you are thrust into a situation that is not of your own making?
7. Esther did not choose this life but that life is where she found herself. And she does what so many of us struggle to do. What did Esther do?

She submits, she was probably scared beyond anything we can imagine, she probably cried herself to sleep... But, she submitted.

*A Quote from Pastor Adam... I am confident Esther debated with God about what was happening in her life. Why? Because that is the same thing we do when God asks us to do something we do not want to do or when God forces us into some place we do not want to be! Have you ever been there? Have you ever felt like God was calling you to do something you did not want to do? It is hard to embrace where we are at times, but Godly leaders have to learn this skill. Because often times in the Bible that is when you see people move from where they want to be into where God designed them to be. This is where we find Esther. She embraces her place in life. She embraces where God has her; and yes, her life changes radically, and then God does amazing things through this young woman.*

**KEY POINT: Godly leaders embrace the position God has them in.**

8. Discuss the quote above. How well do you see most people you know accepting change in their lives?
9. How easy is it for you to say, "God I trust you! I trust you have me on a path to bring you more glory, and God even if it is not the life, I want, it is not about me. It is about You! And I submit! I trust your guidance!"

**READ: Esther 8:11-17**

10. Thinking about what you learned about Xerxes, do you see how powerful God is throughout the Bible? God used one young woman who listened, followed and submitted to His plan, and through God she changed the course of history!

**Life Application:**

**Esther's life had some crazy twists and turns, and I am sure your life has as well. Pray this week for God to give you the strength and fortitude to follow Him no matter what life throws at you.**

