

Masterpiece: 3/6/22

Pastor Rick: The Shadow Mission and the book of Esther

Message Summary:

Esther 1:1-4, 7-8, 10-12

“impressing the nation.”

Esther 1:15

“*Make my Kingdom about Me*”

Esther 2:7

It looks like her mission is to be the eye and arm candy for the most powerful man in the world!

Esther 3:8-11

When leaders have been seduced by their shadow mission, and shadow self, they are likely not to challenge anyone else’s shadow mission as long as it serves their own agenda.

Esther 4:10-14

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

To face a difficult truth without getting discouraged and defensive is one of the greatest challenges of a leader, and Esther does just that!

Esther 4:16

If you are a woman and God has gifted you to lead, for God’s sake, the church’s sake, and for the sake of this sorry and dark world—LEAD!!!

Esther 5:3-4, 8, 10b-13

“*More Wealth, more power, more status, more, more and more!*”

The Twist and the Irony!

Esther 6:6-11

1. The mission we devote ourselves will shape us. Therefore, our shadow missions have an enormous destructive potential. Shadow missions always destroy at least one person, usually the one who lives for them.
2. Shadow missions are almost always slight variations of our authentic missions.
3. The story of Esther also suggests that where you are today is no accident!

She had to decide between a shadow mission of safety, wealth, and power versus her God given mission of saving her people.

What about you?

This is your moment!

You are where and who you are for a reason!

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever read or studied the book of Esther before? If this is a new story for you, here is a nine-minute recap from the Bible Project: <https://youtu.be/JydNSlufRIs>

1. Complete the following sentence: The most courageous thing I've done recently is _____.
2. In Chapter 4, we see that Esther is confronted with a huge decision. How did her faith help her make that decision? What role does our faith play in our decision making?
3. Has keeping a secret or maintaining a loyalty with someone ever put you in a dilemma? If so, how did you decide what to do?
4. The four main characters are Xerxes, Haman, Esther and Mordecai. If you were to be honest with yourself, which character do you most emulate at this stage in your life? Why?
5. Read 4:13-14. What might be the consequences if Esther chooses cowardice instead of courage? Read Hebrews 13:5. For what circumstance do you need to know that there is nothing to fear because Jesus will never leave you? How do you find comfort in God's ultimate sovereignty?
6. When you think about your shadow mission or shadow self, what comes to mind?
7. Pastor Rick said, "Typically your shadow self/mission will develop when you veer off course by just a little bit, or when your strengths go too far." With this in mind, what might that look like for you? Do you have a close person you can discuss this topic more in depth?
8. Even though God is not mentioned in the book of Esther, where do you see God's intervention and providence being worked out? When and where have you experienced God's intervention in a way you never expected?