

**Risking it All (#9 of 11)
Aug. 20, 2017**

- 1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.
 - In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
 - How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
 - How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?
- 2) Share an experience with your IC when you took a risk. How did this play out for you?
- 3) What in Sunday's sermon resonated with you? Was did you find interesting or compelling about the story of Esther?
- 4) Read Esther 4:1-17. What do you learn about Esther's faith? How does this inspire and encourage you?
- 5) Jesus is our "True and Better" Esther. Read 1 John 2:1-2. In what way is Jesus your Advocate? How does this encourage you as you consider the spiritual battle facing those who want to follow Jesus?
- 6) Read Colossians 2:13-15. In what way has Jesus secured victory for us as His followers? What does victory look like in the trenches of real life?
- 7) Read and reflect on 1 John 4:18. What fear is currently holding you back from experiencing the fullness of life and helping others find life? How does knowing and sensing the love of God help you combat this fear?
- 8) Setting aside fear & logistics, If you could do anything to make a positive impact for God in this world, what would you do? What is God asking you to do?
- 9) What risk will you take this week to follow God more closely?

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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

Risking it All - Esther

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

Aug. 20, 2017



Fear so often holds us back from taking risks that can bring life to others and ourselves.

- **FEAR = False Evidence Appearing Real.**

What fear is holding you back today?

Esther 2:17 “And the King loved Esther more than any other young woman. He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti.”

Esther 3:5-6 “When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage. ⁶ He had learned of Mordecai’s nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to destroy all the Jews throughout the entire empire of Xerxes.”

Esther 4:1-17

- **Faith is having confidence that salvation comes from our loving God.**

Esther 4:13-14 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die.

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP) Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

- **Faith is taking the initiative, with complete dependence on God.**

Esther 4:14b-16 “Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same.”

- **Faith is total surrender, willing to risk it all for God and others.**

Esther 4:16b “And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die.”

- **Jesus is the “True and Better” Esther.**

- **Esther risked her life to save the Jews. Jesus gave His life to save the world.**

1 John 2:1-2

Colossians 2:13-15

1 John 4:18 “Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.”

- **FAITH = Forsaking All I Trust Him.**

Big Idea: When we embrace F.A.I.T.H. we conquer F.E.A.R.

And victory comes “Not because we fight well - but because we believe well.”

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT) and the Amplified Bible (AMP).