

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

SERIES: YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU

Today's Message: The Tenacity You've Developed

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Gracious God, you have not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind. Enable us now to walk in that love and power, not just for our benefit, but for the benefit of others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future or in history would you visit?

INTRODUCTION: The book of Esther is a complicated story about identity. In its first few chapters, she hides her identity for reasons we are never told. Esther's rise to power is remarkable, yet the author's main issue isn't individual empowerment, but the death threat faced by her people and how she moved from timidity to tenacity and used her political connections and power to secure their survival.

SCRIPTURE: Read Esther 4:15-17 (NKJV)

DISCUSSION:

1. What stood out in today's message? What decisions have you made in the past that are benefitting your life today? What do you think your life would look like if you hadn't made those decisions?
2. Where is God when bad things happen? The book of Esther doesn't mention God. Why do you think that might be the case?
3. Haman, in anger and arrogance determines to exterminate all of the Hebrews in Persia because he was offended that Mordecai refused to bow down to him. When Mordecai heard the edict, he tore his clothes and clothed himself in sackcloth and ashes. What's your response to injustice around you? What can Mordecai's response teach us?
4. Sackcloth and ashes is also a sign of repentance (visit Jonah 3:5-6). Why is repentance an important part of asking God for mercy?
5. The people fasted, wept and lamented. It's safe to assume they also prayed, although the text does not mention it. Have you ever tried prayer and fasting? Why or why not? What was it like? How can we use this spiritual discipline in troubling times?
6. Esther's initial response to the edict against her people in verse 11 tells us about what she was feeling? How does her response change in verse 16? "... if I perish, I perish." (NIV)

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7. Esther consents to appear before the king unsolicited at great potential hazard to herself. She had to struggle with what it meant to live faithfully in a foreign culture. What does it mean for us to live faithfully in a post-Christian culture?

CHALLENGE: Examine yourself. In what areas do you need to develop tenacity? Pray that God will empower you to overcome your timidity.

SERVE: Pray over Esther 4 this week. **Praise** God in advance for developing tenacity in you despite the challenges you may face. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give God praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, ALL OF OUR CAMPUSES ARE PHYSICALLY CLOSED AT THIS TIME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

As a small group leader, we depend on **you** to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR/DIRECTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory
EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams (Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith (SMB: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Curtis Ballard (curtis.ballardjr@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr. (lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend (michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan (Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman (maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Wallace Simms (Wallace.Simms@myspbc.org)

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