

For Such a Time as This

Week Two: Empowering Others

I. Living as Exiles with Kingdom Vision

Key Scriptures

- **John 18:36** – *“My kingdom is not of this world...”*
- **Hebrews 13:14** – *“We do not have an enduring city here...”*

Core Truth

- This world is **not our home**.
- We are pilgrims living in a foreign land.

Our Reality

- We live within:
 - a fallen world system
 - a kingdom opposed to God

Scripture Insight

- **Isaiah 14:12–14** – The origin of rebellion, pride, and self-exaltation.

The Kingdom of Death

- Marked by:
 - rebellion
 - pride
 - destruction
- Loud, aggressive, and deceptive
- **Not ultimate** and **not equal** to the Kingdom of Heaven

II. Called Out for a Different Way of Life

Identity

- *Ekklesia* = the **called-out assembly**
- **Ephesians 4:1** – *Live worthy of the calling you have received.*

Key Questions

- What does it look like to live worthy of this calling?
- What do we do when God feels distant and darkness feels near?

III. Esther as Our Case Study

- God is not named, yet His hand is everywhere.
- The Kingdom of Heaven is near even when unseen.
- God has ultimate authority and is actively redeeming His creation.

The Story of Esther (Big-Picture Movement)

What Appears as “Coincidence”

- A Jewish orphan becomes queen
- A hidden assassination plot is exposed
- A genocidal plan is formed
- A golden scepter is extended
- A sleepless night changes history
- Gallows are reversed
- God’s people are delivered

Key Truth

- These “coincidences” reveal divine purpose.
- *Perhaps you were placed here for such a time as this.*

IV. Esther 4 — A Picture of Kingdom Warfare

Two Competing Kingdoms: Death & Life

- **Proverbs 18:21** – Death and life are in the power of the tongue
 - **John 10:**
 - Enemy → steal, kill, destroy (Kingdom of Death)
 - Jesus → abundant life (Kingdom of Life)

Our Words Matter

- What we speak (to ourselves and others) advances:
 - the Kingdom of Life **or** the kingdom of death

V. Advancing the Kingdom of Death

Fruit of the Kingdom of Death

- Destruction and death

Esther 4:1–3 — Fruit of the Kingdom of Death Creates an Emotional Response

- Mourning
- Bitterness
- Sorrow
- Fear

How Lies Take Root

- Emotions shape beliefs
- Lies become “truth”
- Lies are spoken over self and others

Lies that Esther begins to speak:

Esther 4:4

- Cover up
- Blend in
- Survive

Esther 4:10

- *I can't help*
- *I have no authority*
- *I could die*

Unchecked Lies:

- Grow
- Spread
- Produce more destruction and death (fruit of the Kingdom of Death)

VI. The Counter-Attack: Advancing the Kingdom of Life

Esther 4:13–14 — Mordecai's Response to the Lies

- Remember who you are
- You cannot hide
- What you've been given is **purposeful**
- *For such a time as this*

Mordecai's Role

- Speaks life
- Calls out identity
- Awakens purpose

Kingdom Pattern

- Truth over lies
- Life over death
- Courage over fear

This Is What Living Worthy Looks Like

- Not blending in
- Not shrinking back
- Not standing idle
- Speaking truth boldly

VII. Walking as Children of the Light

Ephesians 5:6–13

- Do not partner with darkness
- Walk as children of light
- Expose what hides in darkness
- Wake up and rise from the dead

Our Calling

- Call courage out of fear
- Speak life into darkness
- Proclaim truth that brings freedom

VIII. You Are Here on Purpose

Acts 17:26–27

- God determines times and boundaries
- So people may seek Him
- He is not far from any of us

Key Truth

- We are not here by accident.
- God placed us together so we might:
 - know Him
 - seek Him
 - find Him
 - experience true life

IX. Courage Fueled by Faithfulness

Mordecai

- Faithfully speaks truth

Esther

- Receives courage
- Chooses obedience

Esther 4:15–17

- *“I will go... if I perish, I perish.”*
- Calls for fasting

X. Fasting: Dying to Live

Why Fasting?

- Not coincidence
- Three days point to resurrection power

Fasting Is

- Dying to self
- Breaking the hold of the kingdom of death
- An outward expression of surrendered trust

Key Scriptures

- **Matthew 16:25** – Lose your life to find it
- **2 Corinthians 12:10** – Strength found in weakness

Big Idea to Carry With You

God often changes history through people who are faithful when no one is watching—

and perhaps you and I are where we are, with what we have, for such a time as this.