



For Such A Time Esther 4:1-17

**“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom
for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14b**

- This is a question asked of someone who might have to lay her life down for God and His people.
- What will you be called to do?

Esther 4:1-3 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. 3 And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

- Sackcloth and ashes are a symbol of deep sorrow, mourning, and repentance.
- Jacob after thinking Joseph is dead:

Genesis 37:34 Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

- David, Ninevah, Daniel, Witnesses in Revelations 11.
- This is a strong outward symbol of one's inward condition.

Esther 4:4-5 When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

- Esther is in isolation and not aware of the decree yet. Worried about Mordecai.
- Esther has power... and sends Hathach to inquire.

Esther 4:6-9 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, 7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and

plead with him on behalf of her people. 9 And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

- Mordecai makes his appeal to Esther.

Esther 4:10-11 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, 11 “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.”

- Being queen did not mean great intimacy with the King.
- She had seen firsthand this king's irrationality.

Esther 4:12-14 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

- Mordecai has to ask her to do a very tough, costly thing.
- Mordecai believes in the sovereign power and protection of God.
- Sometimes the biggest sin is simply keeping silent.

How do you live so that you are ready when your “such a time” comes?

- Be ready NOW, where you ARE.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, in the Word, praying, meeting with God daily in the quiet place.
- Settle on the fact that God has a right to your life.

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.

- God may use someone to call you to the tough thing!
- Hold things loosely.

Esther 4:15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

So what about when you decide?

- Gather God's people.
- Fast and pray.
- Act -- even if it means death.