

It's Time to Step Up! **Esther 4:1-11**

"God is sovereign" means that He _____ and reigns over everyone and everything in heaven and on earth. Daniel 4:35, "He does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand."

The BIG Idea: God's sovereign control of all things is a call to _____ in faith.

The Question: Where are you, right now, at a _____ point ... where God is saying, "Because I am sovereign, it's time to step up and do what's right—even though it may _____?"

Mordecai Steps Up ... verses 1-8

- He is certain that God has _____ placed Esther as queen for such a time as this (verse 14).
- Mordecai "steps up" by ...
 1. Coming out _____ as a Jew—as one of God's covenant people.
 2. Calling on Esther to publicly reveal her _____.

Psalm 108:13, "With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes."

Esther Shrinks Back ... verses 9-11

- She is struggling to step up in faith for three reasons ...
 1. Seeing the king is by _____ only.
 2. The only way you survive an uninvited entrance is for the king to hold out the golden _____.
 3. I haven't seen the king for a _____.
- Esther is shrinking back in fear because she has failed to connect the dots between God's sovereignty and her _____.
- She doesn't yet see that it was the invisible hand of God moving her into position to _____ in faith.

Applications

1. God often uses _____ as a motivation to step up in faith.
 - God uses grief over our sin to bring us to Jesus in _____ faith. 1 Peter 3:18, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God."
 - God uses seasons of grief to promote seasons of _____. Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes." Psalm 56:3-4, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid."
2. God often uses us to _____ one another to step up in faith.
3. There's hope for you if you've been shrinking back in _____ rather than stepping up in faith.
 - The God who is working all things according to the counsel of His will in the Persian kingdom ... is the same God who is working in Esther's heart "both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13).
 - Isaiah 12:2, "I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."