

***“How Can I Fear?”***  
***Esther 4:10-17***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning:
  - Let's Head Back To Esther Chapter 4 Together!
    - Where - Last Sunday - We Saw What Happened:
      - When The Decree For The Destruction Of The Jews, Instigated By Haman:
        - Spread All Throughout The Empire Of Persia!
    - There Was:
      - Crying & Mourning & Fasting & Weeping & Wailing:
        - Among All The Jews!
          - And It Didn't Take Long For The News Of This Spectacle To Reach The Ears Of:
            - Queen Esther Herself!
2. And So - In 4:8:
  - Mordecai Sent An Important Message To Esther:
    - He Charged Her As His Own, Adopted Daughter - “That she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people!”
      - Just As The World For Mordecai & The Jews Had Just Turned Upside Down – Now It Was Happening To Esther As Well!
        - And Esther - Like We Would Be - Was At First Uncertain / Unsure About What She Could Do!
    - And So - She Sent Back Her Own Message:
      - To Mordecai - Beginning In 4:10:
        - 4:10-12 - “Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; / All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. / And they told to Mordecai Esther's words!”
3. In This First Of Three Messages Between Esther & Mordecai:
  - That We Will Look At This Morning:
    - We Do Not Yet Find A Young Queen:
      - With A Heart Full Of Strong Faith:
        - Ready To Deliver Her People From The Evil Plot Of That Wicked Haman!
    - But - Instead - We Find A Young, Vulnerable Woman:
      - With A Heart Assailed By:
        - Weakness And Fear!
          - And In Many Ways - Her Heart Reminds Us Of Our Own Heart - Whenever There Is A Difficult Decision To Make Or A Difficult Duty To Perform - As A Christian!
  - And Through This Message:
    - We See That There Are Many:
1. ***Obstacles To Our Faith!***
  - **IE:** Like An Obstacle Course - Only The Obstacles Esther Faced & We Face - Even More Challenging - Trials / Testings / Temptations!
    - Esther Was Thinking Through All Of Her Options & All Of Her Obstacles:
      - And They Seemed Too Much To Overcome!
        - And So She Explains To Mordecai - As A Daughter Would Do - Those Obstacles!
          - There Was:
    - One Fearful Knowledge To Overcome!
      - 4:11 - “All The King's Servants, And The People Of The King's Provinces, Do Know!”
        - Esther Explains To Mordecai That:
          - Literally - Everyone Knows What She Is About To Say!
            - Everyone Inside The Palace!
            - Everyone Outside The Palace!
      - And It Seems Like She Is Implying To Him:
        - That Since He Lived & Worked:

- At The King's Gate - Right In The Middle Of Those Two Worlds:
  - That He Should Know This Too!
- "Don't You Know, Father, What You Are Asking Me To Do? You Do Know – Don't You?"
  - It Was A Universal Knowledge About:
- One Fearful Law To Overcome!
  - 4:11 - "That Whosoever, Whether Man Or Woman, Shall Come Unto The King Into The Inner Court, Who Is Not Called, There Is One Law Of His To Put Him To Death!"
    - Access To The King Was Strictly Limited!
    - Not Just For His Protection!
    - But Because Of His Own Pride!
  - But Regardless Of The Reason:
    - Anyone Who Came Into The Presence Of The King Un-Summoned - Could Be Put To Death Immediately!
      - And This Applied Even To The Queen Herself!
      - It Was A Universal Law With:
- One Fearful Exception To Overcome!
  - 4:11 - "Except Such To Whom The King Shall Hold Out The Golden Sceptre, That He May Live!"
    - One Single Exception:
      - That Was Based Solely On The Will & Whim Of The King!
      - Even - What Kind Of Mood He Was In That Day!
    - To Appear Before The King:
      - She Was Placing Her Life In The Hand:
        - Of That Unstable & Temperamental King!
        - But - If All This Was Not Enough To Cause Esther To Fear - We Discover Even Further:
- One Fearful Problem To Overcome!
  - 4:11 - "But I Have Not Been Called To Come In Unto The King These Thirty Days!"
    - Even Though She Was Queen:
      - It Seems As If The Rule For All Of The King's Wives & Concubines Applied To Her As Well!
    - The Rule - 2:14 - "She Came In No More Unto The King, Except The King Delighted In Her, And That She Were Called By Name!"
      - And For 30 Days - Esther Herself:
        - Had Not Been Called For By The King!
        - Imagine The Personal Uncertainty & Fear That Would Wrack Her Mind & Her Heart!
    - Her Own Husband Had Not Called For Her:
      - For 30 Days!
        - Had The King Lost His Delight In Her?
        - Had The King Placed His Delight In Others During That Time?
    - Life In That Gilded Palace:
      - Was Not As Glamorous & Problem-Free:
        - As It Might Seem!
- And So - With All Of These Obstacles:
  - Esther Struggled - And It Seemed Like:
    - Her Fear Would Overcome Any Faith:
      - That She Might Have!
      - What Could She Do?
- Fear Is A Natural Reaction:
  - To Obstacles Like These!
    - And God Has Given Us This Feeling - To Help Us Know When Something Is Wrong!
    - And There Are Times - When Fear Is Necessary & Good!
      - Especially When There Is Something Wrong In Your Heart & Personal Relationship With God!
  - Hebrews 10:31 - "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"
    - Because - God Is A Holy God & A Righteous King:
      - And None Of Us Can Enter Into His Presence With Our Sin!
      - And This Should Cause Us To Fear!

- But We Can Be Thankful That:
  - God Is Not An Arbitrary Or Callous Ruler!
    - But He Has Made A Way For Sinners To Enter Into His Presence!
      - Through Jesus Christ! 1 Peter 3:18 - "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God!" - God's Golden Sceptre!
- And The Only Way To Overcome The Obstacle:
  - Of Fear - Is To Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ!
    - And Then - His "Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear!" (1 John 4:18)
      - And God Uses Our Fears To Tune Our Hearts To Faith:
        - In Him! To Go To Him!
- And It Seems Like This Is What The Lord:
  - Is Doing To Both Esther & Mordecai! See An Example Of The:

## 2. ***Operation Of Our Faith!***

- In Mordecai's Message To Esther:
  - A Message Of Faith - 4:13-14:
    - "Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. / For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
  - It Seems Likely - That Along With His Grief:
    - Mordecai Experienced Fear As Well!
      - After All - He Was Just A Man:
        - "A Man Subject To Like Passions As We Are!"
  - But God In His Grace:
    - Used That Fear To Tune & Recover His Heart:
      - To A Living Faith!
        - And Now - He Seeks Stir Up Esther's Faith As Well!
  - He First Does This:
    - With A Warning:
      - 4:13 - "Think Not With Thyself That Thou Shalt Escape In The King's House, More Than All The Jews!"
    - So Many Times - Even Christians:
      - "Think With Ourselves!"
        - And All Too Often - That Leads To More Fear:
          - And More Excuses To Not Do What God Has Called Us To Do!
    - But Instead - Need To Remember That:
      - "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind!" (2 Timothy 1:7)
  - And Then - He Exhibits His Own Faith In Several Objects:
- The Promises Of God!
  - 4:14 - "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place!"
    - "Relief" & "Rescue" - "From Another Place!"
      - How Did Mordecai Know This?
        - Was There A Plan B?
          - If There Was - Why Would He Risk His Daughter's Life?
  - The Only Way He Could Know This:
    - Was Through Faith In:
      - The Promises Of God!
        - To Preserve His People! And:
          - To Protect His People!
  - Promises - Found Only In God's Word!
    - Isaiah 43:1-2 - "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. / When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not

- overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee!”
- Jeremiah 46:28 - “Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I am with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished!”
  - When You Struggle With Fear:
    - Your Faith Can Rest In The:
      - Promises Of Our God & Savior Jesus Christ!
      - His Presence / Preservation!
    - Isaiah 41:10 - “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness!”
  - The Power Of God!
    - 4:14 - “But thou and thy father’s house shall be destroyed!”
    - Mordecai Understood The Hatred & Power Of Their Enemy:
      - And Knew That Even Esther - Living In The Palace - Was In Reach Of Haman’s Plan! And He Would Be Merciless Even To The Queen!
    - But - As Much As It Would Break His Heart:
      - Mordecai Knew That God Did Not Need:
        - Esther To Accomplish His Plan!
        - He Didn’t Need A Queen Or A King! He Could Raise Up & Use Anyone - Through His Power - To Deliver His People!
    - Because - He Could Be - “Fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform!” (Romans 4:21)
      - But What A Privilege To Be Included In His Plan!
  - The Purpose Of God!
    - 4:14 - “Who Knoweth!”
      - The Truth Was - Mordecai Did Not Know:
        - For Sure - And Neither Did Esther!
    - We Can Confidently Believe In:
      - The Promises & The Principles Given To Us:
        - In The Word Of God!
        - But In The Particulars - We Must Continue To Trust In The Lord!
    - Because - Even Though We May Not Know:
      - All The Details & All The Particulars:
        - “Who Knoweth?”
        - God Does! The Lord Does!
    - So - Psalm 37:5 - “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass!”
  - The Providence Of God!
    - 4:14 - “Who Knoweth Whether Thou Art Come To The Kingdom For Such A Time As This!”
      - Through Faith - Mordecai Was Beginning To See The Whole Picture / The Pieces Of The Puzzle Of God’s Plan Coming Together!
        - And He Wants To Show It To Esther - Even Though It Is Still Incomplete - Perhaps God Has Placed Her There As The Final Piece!
      - Gill - “He Believed That The Providence Of God Had Raised Her To That Dignity, That She Might Be An Instrument Of Saving His People In The Time Of Their Distress!”
    - And So - “Against Hope” – Mordecai – “Believed In Hope!”
      - The Hope Of God’s Own:
        - Promises / Power / Purpose / Providence!
        - And His Faith Sought To Inspire The Faith Of Esther!
        - God Does This For Us!
      - And The Faith Of God’s People:
        - Invigorates & Enlivens Us To:
          - Faith-Fueled & Faith-Filled Action! See:

### 3. ***Outcome Of Our Faith!***

- In Esther’s Final Message To Mordecai:
  - A Message Of Fortitude - 4:15-17:

- “Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, / Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. / So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him!”
- God Used The Wise Counsel Of Mordecai:
  - And The Objects Of His Faith:
    - To Stir Up Esther’s Faith To Overcome Her Own Fears:
      - As She Finally Became The Queen That She Was!
  - 4:15 - “Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer – Go & Gather!”
- And Her Own Personal Faith:
  - In God’s Promises / Power / Purpose / Providence:
    - Gave Her Strength To Do What She Now Believed Was Her Mission!
- There Was A Cause!
  - 4:16 - “Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise!”
  - Instead Of Fear:
    - That Often Drives People Apart!
  - The Faith Of Mordecai & Esther:
    - Brought God’s People Together:
      - As One People!
      - And For One Purpose!
  - And For 3 Days - Esther Called For Them:
    - To Fast!
      - And - This Is Even More Fascinating - Because The Time Period Seems To Align Itself With The Jewish Passover Feast!
  - The Decree For Their Destruction:
    - Was Sent Out On The 13<sup>th</sup> Day Of The 1<sup>st</sup> Month!
      - But The Passover Begins On The 15<sup>th</sup> Day Of The 1<sup>st</sup> Month!
        - So Instead Of Feasting / The Jews In Shushan Were Fasting!
  - Because They All Knew:
    - That They Needed Someone To Intervene For Them!
      - For Their “Enlargement & Deliverance!”
  - Do You Not See - That In Faith:
    - We Too Have A Cause!
      - A Mission For The “Relief & Rescue” For Not Just The Lives Of Others:
        - But Their Souls!
      - There Still Needs To Be Times In Our Own Lives When We “Afflict Our Souls” And Appeal:
        - To The Lord - For The Salvation Of Others! Jesus Alone Is “The Way, The Truth, And The Life!”
  - But - Also - Find It Interesting That Esther Says:
    - “I Also And My Maidens Will Fast Likewise!”
      - Who Where These Maidens?
      - And Why Would They Fast For Esther & For The Jews?
        - Where They Jews Themselves?
        - Or Had Esther Introduced Them To The God Of The Jews?
  - Not Sure - But They Were Included In This:
    - Cause Of Faith! Also:
- There Was A Commitment!
  - 4:16 - “And So Will I Go Unto The King!”
    - Esther Had No Special Promise Of Personal Protection Or Success!
      - But - By Faith - She Was Committed To The Cause Of God & Of His People!
  - She Would Comply With:
    - The Desires Not Only Of Her Adoptive Father:
      - But Of Her Heavenly Father!
        - Even Though - It Was - “Not According To The Law!”
        - This Shows That:
- There Was A Courage!

- In Her Faith & In Her Heart!
  - Where Did This Courage Come From?
    - What's The Difference Between Her Message Of Fear & Her Message Of Fortitude?
- The Difference - Making All The Difference In The World:
  - Was The Hidden Hand Of God:
    - Upon Which She Could Rest & Rely!
    - And So - Also:
- There Was A Contentment!
  - To Do Whatever The Will & Pleasure Of God Was!
    - 4:16 - "And If I Perish, I Perish!"
      - She Didn't Know For Sure!
      - Mordecai Didn't Know For Sure!
      - But She Was Willing To Put Her Own Life On The Line For The Deliverance Of Her People!
- Does This Kind Of Heart Sound Familiar?
  - What We Now See In Esther:
    - Is A Reflection Of The Character Of Christ Himself!
      - His Cause / Commitment / Courage / Contentment - To Do The Will Of His Father!
  - And Through Faith In Him:
    - He Enables & Empowers His People:
      - To Live In Him & Like Him!
        - Galatians 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!"

**Conclusion:**

1. What A Change!
  - From A Message Of Fear:
    - Through A Message Of Faith:
      - To A Message Of Fortitude!
  - Only Faith & Trust In The Lord:
    - Can Render Such A Change:
      - In Your Heart & In Your Life!
2. What Fears Do You Have?
  - And What Is Your Fear / Worry:
    - Causing You To Shrink From:
      - In Your Service For The Lord?
  - 4:13 - "Think Not With Thyself!"
    - Instead - Take Your Fears To The Lord!
      - Psalm 56:3-4 - "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. / In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me!"

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