

Living In The World - Part 3

Esther 4

1. Equipped By God vs. 1-14

Although the Jews were facing a life-threatening law issued by Haman, supported by the Persian king, Mordecai made it clear to Esther that God has equipped her and allowed her to become queen for this very reason, delivering the Jews from the genocide law.

When facing opposition or opportunity, we often feel ill-equipped. However, whenever God convicts us to take action, remember that He has equipped us for this very role, this exact time, and place that we are currently in; to bring God glory.

Remember: Although God can give a specific calling, the ultimate calling is the calling as a believer to love God, love others, obey God, and take care of others. If we concentrate on fulfilling the responsibilities He's given us now, God will take care of our impact on the world. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

Questions:

- Mordecai essentially tells Esther that God's purposes and plans will come to pass regardless of whether or not she steps into the moment, but that she will miss out on the blessing of it if she stays silent. How do Mordecai's words here in verse 14 resonate with you?

- How might Mordecai's words, "who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?", apply to you?

- Esther has to overcome herself in order to do what God created her and positioned her to do. What do you need to overcome through reliance upon God so that you can do what God created and positioned you to do?

2. Enlarging Our Support vs. 15-17

The moment Esther realized that God is calling her to risk her life by breaking the law of approaching the king without invitation, she understood the importance of including the Jews in Susa to join her in depending on God for His provisions through fasting and praying to Him for three days.

How often do we bless others through inviting them to fast and pray when we face a tough situation or a major decision? God has given us a church family for a reason. When we pray as a church, we are unified in our dependence to God, and edifying to the one in need of prayer.

Questions

- Why is it important to provide opportunity for others to join us in prayer when we are facing a tough situation or a major decision?
- What prayer request will you share with others?