

For Such A Time As This

Sunday: 7/30/2023 – Esther 4:1-17 Pastor Lenard Tavernelli



“God raises up specific people to fulfill his purposes for them and through them.”

Overview

In this week’s message Pastor Lenard laid out the story of the response to the king’s decree to annihilate the Jews. We saw Mordecai publicly lamenting and communicating to Esther through messengers. Esther’s initial response was silence and fear. Mordecai then reminds Esther that if she does not take action that another will be raised up to find relief for the Jews, a hint of Mordecai’s faith. Mordecai then states the famous line, that Esther may be in her position “for a such a time as this.” Esther then calls for a fast as she prepared to walk in obedience.

The humanness of this story gives us hope. Esther and Mordecai are simply ordinary people placed where God would have them to fulfill his purpose. This story also shows us that, as God’s people, we cannot remain silent as it relates to the truth of Jesus and his Gospel.

Sermon Outline:

- The Jews’ response: desperate mourning (1-3)
- Esther’s initial response: remain silent (4-11)
- Esther’s final resolve: identify and intercede (12-17)

We cannot remain silent: let us identify with Jesus Christ and his people no matter the cost to fulfill God’s unique purposes for us.

- Rely on a Better Mediator
- Identify with Christ and His people
- Expose the deeds of darkness and speak the truth in love
- Intercede for one another

Corroborating Texts

1 Tim 2:5-6, 1 John 2:1, Heb 4:14-16, Matt 10:39, 10:32-33, Eph 5:7-11, Psalm 20:7-8,

Discussion Questions

1. In our sermon we saw both Mordecai and Esther’s initial responses to a crisis? How have you responded to crisis in your life?
2. Pastor Lenard made a point that we should rely on a better Mediator, that all Old Testament mediators pointed to Jesus. How is Jesus different from Old Testament mediators?
 - a. How does Jesus’s role as mediator provide comfort and rest?
3. Pastor Lenard called us to not be silent as it relates to the truth of the Gospel and God’s purposes. What are practical ways you can be a voice for Jesus?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon or the passage?

Gather – Grow – Practice – Go