

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

SERMON NOTES

Week 4 May 22, 2022

“Esther: For Such a Time as This”

Esther 1:1, 4, 10-12, 20, 22, 2:1-4, 12, 17-18,
3:15, 4:13-14; Genesis 1:27-28



I. King Xerxes and the Shadow Mission

- A. The story of Esther takes place _____ the Babylonian Exile is over.
- B. We are all _____ to let our lives center around something unworthy or selfish.
- C. Our mission is to _____ God, our shadow mission is to replace God.

II. Esther

- A. Esther wins the contest and becomes the new _____.
- B. Haman bribes King Xerxes to give him permission to kill all the _____.
- C. Mordecai tells Esther “you were created for such a _____ as this.”

III. Application

- A. A career is about advancing yourself. A _____ is about serving God.
- B. Barbara Skinner says “It’s not your _____, but it’s your time.”
- C. Like Esther, we need to say no to our shadow mission and _____ to God’s mission.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *May 23-28, 2022*

INTRODUCTION

The story of Esther focuses on the Jewish community that remained living in the Persian capital of Susa after the Babylonian exile was over. The most powerful man in the world at that time was King Xerxes, who was a shallow man who lived his life for his own pleasure and wealth. After an orphan named Esther wins a beauty contest, she becomes the new queen and saves the Jewish people from a genocide ordered by her husband the king. So what do we learn about ourselves from this story?

Monday: Esther 1

King Xerxes' life focused on his pleasure and his ego which was his shadow mission. His mission should have been to be a good king, to do justice, to serve the poor, to protect the vulnerable, to create a flourishing society. We all have a shadow mission that tempts us away from God's mission. The lure of a shadow mission is a danger for every human being that ever lived but it's especially powerful in our culture today. What is your shadow mission? What can you do to keep it from ruling your actions?

Tuesday: Esther 2

The king's attendants convince him to find a new queen through a beauty contest. We read in v. 17 that "the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins." And Esther becomes queen. Clearly a process like this devalues women. Are there any contests or events that you believe devalue a group of people today? What can be done to help bring justice for this group?

Wednesday: Esther 3

Haman bribes the king into giving him permission to exterminate all Jewish people. Unfortunately, the problem of genocide still exists in the 21st century. On a smaller scale, many people struggle with a dislike for certain groups of people although they would not condone genocide. Are there any groups of people that you dislike? What can you do to start seeing them as children of God?

Thursday: Esther 4

Mordecai tells Esther that she has become queen "for such a time as this." She has been brought to this point in your life to give everything she has and to risk it all and work for justice, to spare people great suffering, to oppose a man who is vile and evil and extremely powerful. What is God calling you to do in this season of your life?

Friday: Micah 6:8

Micah tells us that God requires us to **act** justly. Barbara Skinner once said "It's not your fault, but it's your time." Racism may not be your fault but it is your time. Poverty is not your fault, but it is your time. What is one thing you can do this week to work for justice?

MOVING FORWARD

Like King Xerxes, we all have a shadow mission where we want to center our lives around something selfish and unworthy. God has created us for a purpose to serve him and make this world a better place. Our job is to discern our purpose in this season of life and not give in to our shadow mission. Like Esther, we were created for such a time as this.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) after, B) tempted, C) serve. IIA) queen, B) Jews, C) time.
IIIA) calling, B) fault, C) yes.*