

Esther #3: Summoned to Share Sorrow

August 17 & 18, 2024 Esther 4

## Opener:

Briefly share one of your favorite "come back" stories.

## Go Deeper:

- 1. Esther chapter 4 reveals a crisis faced by the Jewish people due to Haman's decree. How did the political and social environment of Persia influence Esther's actions and decisions?
- 2. Esther's attitude was transformed from a passive to proactive. What internal changes might she have experienced upon hearing Mordecai's plea?
- 3. How does Mordecai's relationship with Esther affect her decision-making process? What does this suggest about the role of community and mentorship in facing challenges?
- 4. Esther's decision to approach the king was fraught with danger. What does her response tell us about managing fear with faith?
- 5. Compare Esther's decision to "If I perish, I perish" with Christ's decision to go to the cross (John 10:17-18). How do both show surrender to God's will despite personal risk?

## Live It:

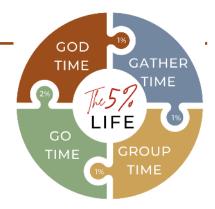
- 1. Can you recall a time when being open about your struggles led to deeper relationships or spiritual growth? How can you foster an environment where such authenticity is encouraged?
- 2. What current situation in your life requires you to confront fear? How can Esther's example of courage inspire you to act despite your fears?
- 3. Esther called her community to fast and mourn with her. How can you invite the Victory Church family to strengthen your faith during trials?
- 4. Reflect on a time when what seemed like a loss or setback turned into a spiritual gain or breakthrough. How did that change your perspective on God's timing and plans?
- 5. Consider the roles and responsibilities you hold today. How might God be using you "for such a time as this"? What steps can you take to fulfill this role courageously?



**GOD TIME:** 

## Daily Bible Readings (August 18-24)

Sun:	Luke 11:2-4	The Lord's Prayer
Mon:	Exodus 16:1-8	Manna from Heaven
Tues:	Exodus 16:9-21	Quail for the People
Wed:	Exodus 16:22-36	Manna & the Sabbath
Thurs:	Matthew 14:13-21	Five Thousand Fed
Fri:	Acts 4:32-37	No One Was Needy
Sat:	Acts 6:1-7	Deacons Appointed



\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.