



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?
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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.

