

Text: Esther 4:13-17

Meaning: God called Esther to save her people

Big Idea: God is calling us to rescue people from the enemy

Objective: I want the hearers to rescue people from the enemy

Theme:

BEING A MODERN DAY HERO

Today we are looking at the story of a superhero in the Bible, and her name is QUEEN ESTHER. The story of Esther reads like an epic superhero movie. Esther was a young Jewish girl living in the Persian capital of Susa being raised by her first cousin Mordecai, both devout followers of the Lord. One day the King of Persia decides he's had enough of his current queen Vashti, so he calls for beautiful young ladies to be brought into the Palace for a year so he can choose a new queen. Esther is chosen and eventually because of her beauty, grace, and wisdom is chosen to be the next queen of Persia.

BUT WHAT WOULD A GOOD SUPERHERO MOVIE BE WITHOUT A VILLAIN! Peter Pan had Captain Hook, Luke Skywalker had Darth Vader, Batman had the Joker, but ESTHER HAD HAMAN.

Haman was a proud, egotistical, self-absorbed bureaucrat who was determined to annihilate the entire Jewish race because one member of it refused to bow down to him, and that someone was Esther's own cousin Mordecai. So, He manipulates the King into signing a decree into law which stated that all the Jewish people were to be killed because of their supposed aversion to the laws of Persia. So, like a pre-incarnate Hitler Haman plots the Genocide of the Jews.

HOWEVER, ESTHER SWOOPS IN TO SAVE THE DAY! Esther agrees to go in unannounced to the King, which was grounds for execution. She puts her life on the line to beg for the salvation of God's people, and the story concludes with an epic rescue of God's people as the King has Haman executed and the Hebrew people defeat their

enemies. ALL BECAUSE ONE LADY WAS WILLING TO BE A HERO!
ESTHER USED HER INFLUENCE TO SAVE OTHERS!

CHURCH – WE ARE CALLED TO BE MODERN DAY HEROES IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES! And you don't have to be able to fly or leap giants buildings in a single bound.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE OF WHAT YOU HAVE TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SERVE SO OTHERS CAN BE BLESSED. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHARE WITH OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE AND INVITE THEM TO KNOW HIM AND HIS LOVE AS WELL.

HEROES – GOD IS CALLING US TO BE A HERO IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE AND ALL IT TAKES IS A WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE OF MY TIME, MONEY, AND PURSUITS TO INVEST IN OTHERS.

In Esther chapter 4 we see the very words that God used to convict Esther to be a hero for others.

READ ESTHER 4:13-17

What does it take to be a hero in someone else's life?

1. REJECT COMPLACENCY

Esther had it all. She was the queen of the most powerful empire in the world. She lived in the palace. She could travel and see any sight she wanted to. She had more wealth than we can even imagine at her disposal. She ate of the finest delicacies in the world. She was privileged to meet some of the most famous people around. In the eyes of the world she had it all. But while she had it all, her people were in shambles. Broken, poor, destitute, persecuted; and now there were talks of genocide, their very existence was in danger. The time for just enjoying the ride was over. God had Esther in the Palace for this very reason.

British politician **Edmund Burke** once stated:

“ALL THAT IS REQUIRED FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING.”

Interesting here is the fact that Esther sent Mordecai clothing without finding out what was wrong. Sitting in sackcloth and ashes was an open sign of great burden and sorrow, and doing it at the King’s gate made it of grave importance. However, Esther was content not knowing what the burden of Mordecai heart was.

CHURCH – how can we sit idly by and enjoy the fruit of salvation and God’s grace without helping those who hurt right around us?

What are the greatest needs before us?

- Economy in distress
- Politically divided
- Sex trafficking
- Sexual immorality
- Cancer/Other diseases

CHURCH – WHAT ABOUT LOSTNESS?! WHAT ABOUT HOPELESSNESS AND BROKENNESS IN OUR CITY?!

Some say – I DON’T HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE.
Sure you do! – PRAYER, SERVING, SHARING CHRIST, INVITING OTHERS – EVEN IN GIVING EVERY DOLLAR MATTERS.

Church, it is not enough for us to say “I am saved, I am secure, and I have all I need” while people all around us are broken, poor, hurting, and lost.

Today – Church – IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US – WE MUST INFILTRATE THE DARKNESS WITH THE LOVE AND HOPE OF JESUS!

The time for just coming to church and going back home and not engaging in ministry and community is long gone.
It’s time to ENGAGE!

2. RECOGNIZE GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY

Coincidences are simply when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Mordecai asked Esther, “What if you are queen for such a time as this?”

Location – ordained by God
Occupation – ordained by God
Relations – ordained by God

ONE CHANCE – ONE OPPORTUNITY – ONE LIFE TO LIVE

LIVE IT FOR JESUS! LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. GIVE HOPE AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

3. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Mordecai warned Esther that she could not hide. It was incredibly dangerous to approach the king uninvited; but the

danger of doing nothing outweighed the danger of approaching the king.¹

So Esther said, "I will go to the King and intercede for the people, and If I perish I perish"

Beloved – we worry so much about what we might lose if we stand for Christ.

Lose my job – lose that friend – offend that classmate/teammate – might not have enough money if we give – might have to give up that hobby or might not get to spend as much time together on the weekends if we serve in ministry

WHAT ARE YOU LOSING IN ETERNITY BY NOT SERVING THE LORD?

Instead of worrying about what others might say – what if we turned our attention to the God who made us, the God who saved us – and became more interested in what He will say to us in Heaven.

THEME OF ESTHER: GOD ALWAYS TAKES CARE OF HIS PEOPLE

Mordecai – beautiful picture of Christ the intercessor

Esther – glowing example of someone who was willing to stand for Christ

GOD ALWAYS TAKES CARE OF HIS CHURCH – BUT HE DOES SO THROUGH US!

JIM ELLIOT

¹ Mervin Breneman, [Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther](#), electronic ed., vol. 10, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993), 336.

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose

YOU CANNOT TAKE THE THINGS OF THIS EARTH WITH YOU. TODAY, CHRIST IS CALLING YOU INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMSELF. LAY YOUR LIFE DOWN AND COME TO JESUS!

CHURCH – CHRIST IS CALLING US TO GO ALL IN – WHATEVER IT TAKES – WHATEVER IT COSTS – WHATEVER IT LOOKS LIKE – I'M IN!

ESTHER RESPONSE SOUNDS A LOT LIKE OTHER GREAT MEN AND WOMEN OF GOD:

Abraham – I believe you Lord!

Moses – Here I am Lord!

Ruth – the Lord is my Lord and His family is my family

Deborah – If no one else will go I'll go!

Isaiah – Here I am – Send Me

Daniel – I will not defile myself with the choice things of the world

Nehemiah – I cannot be happy as long as people are suffering

Jesus – Lord, if this cup can pass let it pass, yet not my will but yours be done!