

RUNNING WITH THE



Sermon #2 – Esther: Made for this Moment

Book of Esther

May 13, 2018

Made for this Moment

God's presence is not as intriguing as His absence. His voice is not as eloquent as His silence. Who of us has not longed for a word from God, searched for a glimpse of His power, or yearned for the reassurance of His presence, only to feel that He seems absent for the moment? Distant. Preoccupied. Maybe even unconcerned. Yet later, we realize how very present He was all along.

Though God may at times seem distant, and though He is invisible to us, He is always invincible. This is one of the main lessons of the book of Esther. Though absent by name from the pages of this particular book of Jewish history, God is present in every scene and in the movement of every event, until He ultimately and finally brings everything to a marvelous climax as He proves Himself Lord of His people, the Jews.

Mordecai was a descendant of one of those exiled Jews. He was a godly man, and his most significant role was his relationship to Esther.

Esther, which is this young woman's Persian name, means "star." This seems appropriate, since she is truly the star of the show, the heroine of the story. The immortal, invisible, all-wise hand of God is working behind the scenes, hidden from human eyes. Only such a gracious and all-knowing Being would have His hand on some forgotten orphan, a little girl who had lost her mother and father and was left to be raised by her cousin Mordecai.

- How does the life of Esther relate to your life?
- How does God supply strength during the storms of life?

There is a beautiful message here for anyone who has ever experienced brokenness, for anyone who has ever been crushed by life, for anyone who has ever felt that his past is so discolored, so disjointed, so fractured that there is no way in the world God can make reason and meaning out of it. We are going to learn some unforgettable lessons from Esther. Here was a little girl who must have cried her heart out at the death of her parents, bereft and orphaned, yet who, years later, would become key to the very survival of her people, the Jews. God and God alone can do such things—He, in fact, does do such things, working silently and invisibly behind the events of history.

We must never forget that even when times are overwhelming and seem to be out of our control, God is still working. And most importantly He is working quietly behind the scenes of your life too. We just need to learn to trust Him and obey His will as we find in the advice of Mordecai.

Esther 4:14 – For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

- Does the advice in this text still apply today? Explain.
- What does it mean to be appointed for “a time such as this?”

Three Laws of Living Out God’s Purpose

During the message, we learned about the “Three Laws of Living Out God’s Purpose.” As you reflect upon each of these laws, begin asking how each law applies in your life and others around you today.

Law #1 - The Law of Influence:

God is the Author of Your Influence – Follow His Direction

Law #2 - The Law of Timing:

God’s Timing is Perfect – Be Patient, Listen, and Wait for Him

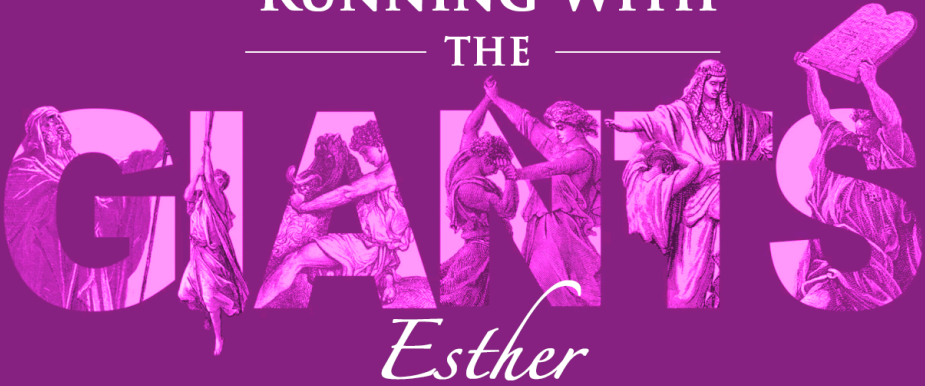
Law #3 – The Law of Solid Ground:

Live Your Life on the Solid Foundation for Stability and Success

- How does each law apply to your life?
- How can you apply these lessons in your own life as you minister to others?

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