

## WHEN YOU ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE, PT. 1

### Sermon Outline — Esther 2

#### Sermon Series: Esther — For Such A Time As This

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† 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, “Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment (flash), in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed” (ESV).

- The Greek New Testament word translated as “flash” is [ἄτομος; atomos]. This is the combination to two Greek words — “a”, which means “no, not” and “tomos,” which means “to divide, to split, to cut into.” When combined this word means “something that cannot be split into, something that cannot be divided or cut into.” Paul says, “One day, in an atom of time, in a speed so fast that you cannot divide, Jesus will return.”
- The second word here that is going to catch everyone off guard is the Greek New Testament word [ρίπη; ripē], which is translated as “twinkling.” How fast is a “twinkling of an eye”? > \_\_\_\_\_. What is called the “rapture” is going to happen so fast, that in essence, the speed will be unmeasurable.
- Some scholars think there maybe one reference to the book of Esther in the New Testament book of Hebrews, where is a mention of Jewish people ““*escaped death by the edge of the sword*” (Hebrews 13:34, NLT).
- Pastor and author, J. Vernon McGee said this about the Book of Esther, “*Providence is the hand of God in the glove of history.*”

### The Dangers, Temptation, & Bad Reactions God’s People Face

1. All of us have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ over some decision we have made (Esther 2:1).
  2. All of us have a tendency to \_\_\_\_\_ for our decisions by getting \_\_\_\_\_ for not being \_\_\_\_\_ (Esther 2:1).
    - When we blame, we have chosen to \_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. All of us at times is prone to base our relationships on \_\_\_\_\_ and not on \_\_\_\_\_ (Esther 2:2-4).
    - The Hebrew word translated as “beautiful” in Esther 2:2 is two words —[טובות מראה, mar’eh tovot]. “Mar’eh” means “\_\_\_\_\_” and “tovot” means “\_\_\_\_\_.”
    - The word translated as “virgins” in Esther 2:2 does not mean just “virgin” as we think. The Hebrew refers to “teenage girls who are \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - The Hebrew word translated as “pleases” in Esther 2:4 is [עֲנִי, ene’]. It means “an \_\_\_\_\_ for, \_\_\_\_\_ towards.” This does not refer to \_\_\_\_\_, but simply \_\_\_\_\_. This beauty contest will not be just about physical beauty, but \_\_\_\_\_.
    - This idea would have been unheard of in Persia and a shock to Persians themselves. Why? Persian Law required that the queen had to be related to one of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- † Esther 2:16, “Esther was taken to King Xerxes at the royal palace in early winter of the seventh year of his reign” (NLT).
4. All of us are vulnerable at times to use either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to get what we want (Esther 2:5-6).
- † 1 Samuel 9:2, “Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else” (NIV).
- † 2 Samuel 16:5-8, “As King David came to Bahurim, a man came out of the village cursing them. It was Shimei son of Gera, from the same clan as Saul’s family. <sup>6</sup>He threw stones at the king and the king’s officers and all the mighty warriors who surrounded him. <sup>7</sup>“Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!” he shouted at David. <sup>8</sup>“The Lord is paying you back for all the bloodshed in Saul’s clan. You

stole his throne, and now the Lord has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, for you are a murderer!" (NLT).

- + On his death bed, King David said to Solomon what do with Shimei in 1 Kings 2:9, "You are a wise man, and you will know how to arrange a bloody death for him (Shimei)" (NLT).
- + For 3 years, Solomon showed grace to Shimei until Shimei broke his word to Solomon and the result was this in 1 Kings 2:41-43, 46, "Solomon heard that Shimei had left Jerusalem and had gone to Gath and returned. <sup>42</sup>So the king sent for Shimei and demanded, "Didn't I make you swear by the Lord and warn you not to go anywhere else or you would surely die? And you replied, 'The sentence is fair; I will do as you say.' <sup>43</sup>Then why haven't you kept your oath to the Lord and obeyed my command?" . . . <sup>46</sup>Then, at the King Solomon's command, Benaiah son of Jehoiada took Shimei outside and killed him. So the kingdom was now firmly in Solomon's grip" (NLT).
- + Ephesians 4:26a, "Don't sin by letting anger control you" (NLT).
  - "Mordecai" is not his Jewish name, but his Babylonian name. Mordecai comes from the Babylonian god Marduk, who was the most supreme god of all the Babylonian gods. "Marduk" means "immortal son" and "sun god." This shows how much the Jews had forgotten and abandoned their Jewish heritage and their God.

5. All of us are vulnerable to resort to our \_\_\_\_\_ when our \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Esther 2:5-6).

- + Take your Bible and read Esther 2:5-6 again.
  - The truth is you may not physically kill anyone, but we Christians kill people's reputation through our gossip and our attitudes of self-righteousness. When our peers or the world or family pushes our buttons to be liked and accepted by them, we can resort to our old sinful nature. When have you gossiped and slandered someone's reputation and character? Why did you do it. What were the results? Do you make amends for it? Why or why not?
  - Take your Bible and read Colossians 3:8-11 and James 3:7-12. Does this convict you in any way?
- + Romans 6:1-2, "What shall we say, then? Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? <sup>2</sup>Certainly not! We have died to sin—how then can we go on living in it? (GNT).
- + 1 Corinthians 6:19-20a, "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup>for God bought you with a high price" (NLT).
- + 1 Peter 1:16, "For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy" (NLT).
  - Peter quotes from Leviticus 11:44; Leviticus 11:45; Leviticus 19:2; Leviticus 20:7; Leviticus 20:26; Leviticus 21:8; and Deuteronomy 23:14. When God says something 7 times in the Bible to us, He is NOT giving us a \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_. The word "holy" means "to be set apart to be different than the world."
- + Romans 6:1-2, "What shall we say, then? Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? <sup>2</sup>Certainly not! We have died to sin—how then can we go on living in it? (GNT).

6. All of us are vulnerable to keeping our relationship to Jesus Christ a \_\_\_\_\_ (Esther 2:7).

- + Esther 2:10, "Esther had not told anyone of her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had directed her not to do so" (NLT).
  - Esther is a Persian word that derives from Ishtar, the Persian goddess of love. Hadassah means "\_\_\_\_\_." (Take your Bible and read Isaiah 55:13, Zechariah 1:8-10).
  - Esther is her Persian name which means "\_\_\_\_\_." This makes sense because Myrtle Trees produce star-like flowers.
  - If a young beautiful teenage virgin was brought to King Xerxes each day for 4 years until Esther is chosen as queen, that would be \_\_\_\_\_ teenage virgins King Xerxes put to the test and rejected as queen.
- + Matthew 10:33, Jesus said, "Everyone who denies Me here on earth, I will also deny before My Father in heaven" (NLT).
  - When you find yourself between a rock and a hard place, be \_\_\_\_\_, as God is holy. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ as proof you \_\_\_\_\_ Him and when you \_\_\_\_\_, be \_\_\_\_\_ over it.