

WHEN YOU ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK & A HARD PLACE, PT. 2

Sermon Outline — Esther 2:8-20

Sermon Series: Esther — For Such A Time As This

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- † Deuteronomy 6:4-9, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (ESV).
- † Proverbs 29:18a, “When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild” (NLT).
- † Jeremiah 31:30-31, “Israel and Judah have done nothing but wrong since their earliest days. They have infuriated Me with all their evil deeds,” says the LORD. ³¹“From the time this city was built until now, it has done nothing but anger Me, so I am determined to get rid of it” (NLT).
 - In Esther 2:8, King Xerxes’ eunuch’s name is Hegai, which means “groaning and separation.” His name may indicate the pain he went through to become a eunuch and how he is now separated to protect the king’s wives and concubines.
 - The Hebrew word translated as “brought” is the Hebrew word [תָּלַח, tillqach]. It means “to be _____.”

Why Does Mordecai Demand They Keep Their Jewish Heritage A Secret?

1. Maybe Mordecai felt they were on their own and thus it was in their best interest to use their _____ to make the best of their situation.
 - † Jeremiah 31:36-37, ““I am as likely to reject my people Israel as I am to abolish the laws of nature!” ³⁷This is what the LORD says: “Just as the heavens cannot be measured and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored, so I will not consider casting them away for the evil they have done. I, the LORD, have spoken!” (NLT).
 - † Matthew 28:20, Jesus said, “I am always with you” (NLT).
 - † Hebrews 13:5, “For He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (NLT).
 - † Romans 8:38-39, “I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (NLT).
2. Maybe Mordecai felt there could be some _____ if anyone discovered they were Jews (See Deuteronomy 28).
3. Mordecai and Esther kept their nationality a secret because in their view, _____.
 - In Esther 2:9 & Esther 2:15, the Hebrew word translated as “favor” is the most common word used for God: [חֶסֶד, chesed]. The Hebrew implies that when Hegai saw Esther, her character was appealing — suggesting she was _____, _____, and _____.
 - God may be _____, but He is still _____. His hand is invisible, but His plan is _____.

What Is Esther 2:9 Saying?

1. These 7 female attendants are hand picked by the eunuch Hegai to attend to Esther and thus they would know what the _____ from personal experience.
2. The phrase “from the king’s selected palace” means they were probably 7 teenage girls who were sexually matured who were part of a group narrowed down by King Xerxes as a _____.

Esther 2:10-18

- According to Esther 2:12, each woman would reveal something about her _____ by the things she asked to take with her to see the king in his bedchamber.
- According to Esther 2:14, teenage girls went in as _____ and came out as _____ relegated thereafter to a life of luxurious desolation.
- Some evangelical Christians, in an attempt to exonerate Esther, try to sanitize this verse and make Esther to hero, say the word translated as “taken” [בָּאָה, ba-ah] means she was taken against her will. The problem with that is that this same word is used to refer to Mordecai taking Esther as his daughter in Esther 2:15. If that is the case, then it would suggest that Mordecai was guilty of incest with his niece.

- In Esther 2:16-17, the word translated as “loved” is the Hebrew word [יָהָב, ye’ehav] means “to love.” But the point is King Xerxes still loved _____.
- In Esther 2:18, this celebration included two realities: (a) King Xerxes declared this celebration a _____ — meaning a _____. (b) When King Xerxes had _____ Queen Vashti, this time he _____ Queen Esther.

How Does All of This Apply To Us Today?

- Remember, the story of Esther reveals the _____ & _____ of God.
 - + Isaiah 55:8-9, “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts” (NLT).
 - + 1 Samuel 13:14 & Acts 13:22, “David is a man after My own heart” (NLT).
- Remember, whoever is in _____, God is ultimately in _____.
 - + Proverbs 21:1, “The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; He guides it wherever He pleases” (NLT).
 - + Proverbs 16:9, “We make our plans but the Lord determines our steps” (NLT).
- Remember, God keeps His _____ to us even when we _____ it.
 - + John 10:27-28, Jesus promised to the redeemed: “My own sheep will hear My voice and I know each one, and they will follow Me. ²⁸I give to them the gift of eternal life and they will never be lost and no one has the power to snatch them out of My hands” (TPT).
 - + 2 Timothy 2:13, “If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny who He is” (NLT).
- Remember God uses even _____ to demonstrate His _____.
 - + Deuteronomy 7:3-4, “You must not intermarry with of the inhabitants in this land. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters, ⁴for they will lead your children away from Me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and He will quickly destroy you” (NLT).
 - + God called Nebuchadnezzar “My servant” in Jer. 27:6; 43:10; Isa. 44:28, 45:1; and Ezek. 29:18–20.
 - + Romans 3:24, “Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins” (NLT).
 - + Ephesians 2:8-9, “God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it” (NLT).
 - + See Hebrews 4:16, Titus 3:7 & Ephesians 4:7.
- Remember, we are to be _____ the world, but not _____ it.
 - + John 17:14-17, Jesus prayed this for us today > “I have given them Your Word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I’m not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to this world any more than I do. ¹⁷Make them holy by Your Truth; teach them Your Word, which is Truth” (NLT).
 - + Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (ESV).
- Remember, submitting to the _____ and _____ of God and godlier people _____ me.
 - + Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (ESV).
 - + Proverbs 1:7, “Fearing the Lord is the beginning of discernment, but fools despise wisdom and moral instruction” (NET).
 - + Psalms 71:18, “Now that I am old and my hair is gray, do not abandon me, O God! Be with me while I proclaim Your power and might to all generations to come” (GNT).
 - + Matthew 28:19-20a, Jesus said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (NLT).
 - + 1 Samuel 15:22-23, “Which does the Lord prefer: obedience or offerings and sacrifices? It is better to trust and obey Him than to sacrifice the best sheep to Him. ²³Rebellion against Him is as bad as witchcraft, and arrogance is as sinful as idolatry. Because you rejected the Lord’s command, He has rejected you as king” (PAR).