

**SUFFERING IS PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, PT. 2**  
**Sermon Outline — Esther 4:1-17**  
**Sermon Series: Esther — For Such A Time As This**  
**November 13, 2022**  
**Kelly Stanley**

- † *Esther 4:1-3*, “When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. <sup>2</sup>He went up to the entrance of the king’s gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king’s gate clothed in sackcloth. <sup>3</sup>“And in every province, wherever the king’s command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes” (ESV).
- † *Joel 2:12*, “Yet even now,” says Adonai, “turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting” (CJB).
- What does it take for God to get my \_\_\_\_\_?
  - How much \_\_\_\_\_ each day is my mind on God, the things of God, my relationship to Christ and God’s Word?

- † *Esther 4:4*, *When Esther’s young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them”* (ESV).

**Why Is Queen Esther Fearful For Mordecai’s Immediate Life Based on Esther. 4:4?**

1. By refusing the gifts/clothing from the Queen, he has \_\_\_\_\_ her, which is punishable by Persian law.
2. By walking around the “King’s Gate” in sackcloth and ashes, he has broken another Persian law about dress code for anyone who enters the King’s Gate. Persian Law forbid this kind of appearance. Therefore, he has now \_\_\_\_\_ the king, which is a punishable offense.

- † *Esther 4:5-7*, “Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was. <sup>6</sup>“Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate, <sup>7</sup>and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king’s treasuries for the destruction of the Jews” (ESV).

- It only took 30 pieces of silver to bribe Judas to betray Jesus. In that day, 30 pieces of silver was the amount a master paid to buy or sell a \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus’ day. The amount was equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ can you be \_\_\_\_\_? Is it money? Popularity? Acceptance? Control? Position or title? Subjectivism? What can bribe you?

- † *Esther 4:8-9*, “Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people. <sup>9</sup>And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said” (ESV).

**In Persian Culture, Esther Faced 3 Problems In Esther 4:8**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

- † *Esther 4:10-11a*, “Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, <sup>11</sup>“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live” (ESV).

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

- † *Esther 4:11b*, “But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days” (ESV).

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

- † *Esther 4:12-13*, “And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. <sup>13</sup>Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews” (ESV).

- † *Joshua 24:14-15*, “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (ESV).
- † *Esther 4:14a*, “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” (ESV).
  - The Hebrew word translated as “place” is [מִקוֹמָא, maqom] is a word that is used symbolically to refer to God. In other Jewish literature, God is often referred to as “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Mordecai didn’t know \_\_\_\_\_ God was planning, but he knew that God \_\_\_\_\_ planning. Most often, that’s all our faith needs to know.
- † *Esther 4:14b*, “And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (ESV).
- † *Matthew 16:18*, Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (ESV).
- † *Matthew 28:19-20a*, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always” (ESV).
  - Ask yourself this question: Where am I \_\_\_\_\_ with God?

### **What Did Esther Do?**

1. The first thing Esther did is ask Mordecai to call for a \_\_\_\_\_ among Jews in the capital -- Susa.
  - † *Esther 4:15-16a*, “Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup>“Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day” (ESV).
  - † *Joel 2:15*, “Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly” (ESV).
  - † *Matthew 17:21*, Jesus answered, “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (NKJV).
2. The second thing Esther did was she publicly her \_\_\_\_\_ with God’s people.
  - † *Esther 4:16b*, “I and my young women will also fast as you do” (ESV).
2. The third thing Esther did was she surrendered finally to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - † *Esther 4:16c-17*, “Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish. <sup>17</sup>So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him” (ESV).

### **Three Biblical Truths About Defining Moments**

1. My defining moments are in moments of \_\_\_\_\_ that bring me closer to becoming the \_\_\_\_\_ God wants me to be.
  - † *1 Peter 3:17*, “For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil” (ESV).
  - † *1 Peter 4:13*, “Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world” (NLT).
2. My defining moments are typically not going to be \_\_\_\_\_. They will instead be small steps of \_\_\_\_\_ where I live up to my real name -- \_\_\_\_\_ and obey the voice of Christ.
  - † *Matthew 10:33*, Jesus said, “Whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven” (ESV).
  - † *2 Timothy 2:12*, “If we suffer for Him through obedience, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us” (PAR).
3. My defining moments are made when I decide to push against my \_\_\_\_\_ and get \_\_\_\_\_ in where God wants me \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ despite my \_\_\_\_\_.
  - † *2 Timothy 2:17*, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline” (NLT).