

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

--ESTHER 4:1-17—

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we ended with Ahasuerus and Haman sitting down to drink while the city of Susa was reeling and in confusion having just received the edict for the annihilation of the Jews sealed and delivered in the name and authority of King Ahasuerus, thus it was a law of the Medes and the Persians which cannot be altered.

I. MORDECAI MOURNS (Esther 4:1-3)

- a. All of Susa has heard the king's \_\_\_\_\_ and as I said last Sunday the whole capital city was thrown into confusion.
- b. Mordecai's reaction to this edict is \_\_\_\_\_ and significant.
- c. But the focus is on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mordecai because he fully understands what this edict means.
- d. Remember that Mordecai represents the Holy \_\_\_\_\_. (Ephesians 4:30-31; Galatians 5:22-23)
- e. It is remarkable to think that what grieves the Holy Spirit is not the sinner's enmity with God so much as the unthinking foolishness of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. Mordecai made his way to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the citadel and there he stopped.

II. MORDECAI INFORMS (Esther 4:4-8)

- a. Up to this point, neither the king nor the \_\_\_\_\_ knows of Mordecai's grieved heart.
- b. Have you ever sensed that you are living with the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit?
- c. When the messengers come back with the \_\_\_\_\_ that Esther sent out to Mordecai, she knows that she must know what has so grieved his heart.
- d. When we seek to find out what it is that is causing distress in our own lives, why the \_\_\_\_\_ within us is grieved, we never need to worry that we will be left in the dark.
- e. Listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ between Hathach and Mordecai.

- f. Mordecai instructs Esther to go to the king and to \_\_\_\_\_ for her people.

III. MORDECAI RESPONDS (Esther 4:9-14)

- a. When Hathach returns to Esther with the message given to him by Mordecai it is clear from Esther's response that she fully \_\_\_\_\_ the matter.
- b. Mordecai \_\_\_\_\_ to Esther immediately. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:15)
- c. Esther was reluctant to face the possibility of death, but there was no other way out. (John 12:24; Galatians 2:20)
- d. Mordecai highlights the importance of this commitment by saying, "*And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a \_\_\_\_\_ as this?*" (Esther 4:14b, NASB95)

IV. MORDECAI FASTS (Esther 4:15-17)

- a. Mordecai's response to Esther's reluctance helps her to make a \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 12:40)
- b. If we looked at Esther through the book of \_\_\_\_\_ at this point you would find yourself right at Romans 6:6.
- c. Mordecai gathers the Jews in Susa, Esther gathers her maidens and they all fast, and with fasting comes \_\_\_\_\_.

CONCLUSION:

"If I perish, I perish." These words of Esther so beautifully picture the identification of the believer with the death of Jesus Christ. This is not yet the realm of the soul. This identification with the death of Christ concerns the realm of the spirit. What this declares is that down at the very deepest level of your life a fact has taken place from which all deliverance will stem. Christ's death for you and your death with Him are unchangeable facts.

From this point, the Holy Spirit is ready to move into the realm of the conscious life, the soul. It is necessary to bring to our conscious attention what is going on deep in our spirit before we can be delivered. And the power with which God works in our life will always be the power of a resurrected life.