

ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

"Convenience, Compromise, or Conviction?" Esther 2:5-20 November 17, 2024

Read Esther 2:5-20

#### Xerxes command & cruelty

### Mordecai

- ✓ His <u>compassion</u> towards Esther
- ✓ His caution &  $\underline{counsel}$
- ✓ His commitment

# Esther

- $\checkmark$  Her condition & <u>countenance</u> Vs 7
- ✓ Her <u>capture</u>
- ✓ Her commitment (respect) to Mordecai
- ✓ Her <u>character</u>
- $\checkmark$  Her choice
- $\checkmark$  Her crown & the king's celebration
- ✓ Her <u>capacity</u>

# The Lord was in control

- ✓ God's <u>favor</u> rested on them
- ✓ God used <u>difficult</u> circumstances to fulfill His plan
- ✓ God still used them even if they had <u>compromised</u>

#### **RESPONSE QUESTIONS:**

- 1. In what ways are you currently trying to hold on to your Biblical convictions but feel tempted to compromise with the world? How can we faithfully navigate such tensions?
- 2. Esther and Mordecai were imperfect and perhaps disobedient, but the Lord still used them instead of discarding them. How do you feel about this? Is it any less true for us?
- 3. How does God use ordinary people like Esther to accomplish His will, even when they might seem to be insignificant in the grand scheme of things? How does understanding that God uses ordinary people for His purposes challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?
- 4. Esther's beauty is noted here but what does the text suggest about the importance of inner character over outward appearance? How does this align with biblical principles about beauty? How can we focus more on developing inner character rather than prioritizing external appearance, especially in a culture that often values outward beauty?
- 5. Esther obeys Mordecai's instructions, even when they are not entirely clear. What do these verses reveal about her character and her relationship with her cousin Mordecai? How does Esther's humility and faith serve as an example for us? How can we cultivate a spirit of humility and obedience in our own walk with God, especially in areas where the path forward isn't obvious?