

Esther #5: Great Blessing Comes Great Responsibility

Text: Esther 4:1-17

Lament Precedes Action (1-3)

- Why did Jews rip their clothes and put on sackcloth?
- All Jews across Persia in every province are lamenting in the streets. Many of them are in ripped clothes and sackcloth.
- Is there significance in prayer not being mentioned with fasting?
- What is the purpose of prayer and fasting?

What around you causes God's heart to break that yours should break for as well?

Do you find your heart hardened to the lost around or open? Injustice?

Crisis of Faith (4-11)

- Why does Esther send Mordecai clothes to wear?
- What does Esther discover from Mordecai via her servant?
- What does Esther say is the danger of going before the king unbidden?
- Does she have good reason to fear the king?

Where has God placed you in life? Job? Family? Location? Schools for your kids?

How can you steward your position that God has placed you for action?

God Uses Imperfect People For His Perfect Work (12-17)

- What does Mordecai tell Esther about protecting her safety?
- Does God need Esther to deliver His people? If Esther does not deliver the Israelites, would the Israelites perish?
- What does Esther ask the Jewish people to do on her behalf?

How should prayer and fasting be a part of your life before you make great decisions?

How does safety and security prevent us from following God?

How should fasting and prayer be a part of your decisions and your life?

If God doesn't need us for His purposes, why does He use us?