

WORSHIP HANDOUT

August 2, 2020

Series: For Such a Time, Lessons from Esther



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study continues on Zoom on Tuesday evenings.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: What offering do we need to bring to God?
God does not look for sacrifices or offerings,
but for open ears, like channels for the truth.

**P: Grand gestures and offerings are not required,
but a heart-felt delight in doing the will of God.**

L: My friends, behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

**P: God has put a new song in my mouth,
placed a new melody on my tongue.**

L: The love of Jesus, the Lamb of God, be with you always.

P: And also with you. Amen.

HYMN

Come and Find the Quiet Center 2128

TIME OF PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER

O God,

our guide and help in alien and contentious places:

as Esther prayed faithfully and worked courageously

for the deliverance of your people,
strengthen us to confront the oppressor
and free the oppressed,
so that all people may know
the justice and unity of your realm. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC) LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LESSON 1 CEB

Esther 3:1-6, 12-15

3 Sometime later, King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, Hammedatha the Agagite's son, by promoting him above all the officials who worked with him. ² All the royal workers at the King's Gate would kneel and bow facedown to Haman because the king had so ordered. But Mordecai didn't kneel or bow down. ³ So the royal workers at the King's Gate said to Mordecai, "Why don't you obey the king's order?" ⁴ Day after day they questioned him, but he paid no attention to them. So they let Haman know about it just to see whether or not Mordecai's words would hold true. (He had told them that he was a Jew.) ⁵ When Haman himself saw that Mordecai didn't kneel or bow down to him, he became very angry. ⁶ But he decided not to kill only Mordecai, for people had told him Mordecai's race. Instead, he planned to wipe out all the Jews, Mordecai's people, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. ¹² So in the first month, on the thirteenth day, royal scribes were summoned to write down everything that Haman ordered. The orders

were for the king's rulers and the governors in charge of each province, as well as for the officials of each people. They wrote in the alphabet of each province and in the language of each people. They wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed the order with the king's royal ring. ¹³ Fast runners were to take the order to all the provinces of the king. The order commanded people to wipe out, kill, and destroy all the Jews, both young and old, even women and little children. This was to happen on a single day—the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month of Adar). They were also to seize their property. ¹⁴ A copy of the order was to become law in each province and to be posted in public for all peoples to read. The people were to be ready for this day to do as the order commanded. ¹⁵ Driven by the king's order, the runners left Susa just as the law became public in the fortified part of Susa. While the king and Haman sat down to have a drink, the city of Susa was in total shock.

LESSON 2 CEB

Esther 4:1-17

4 When Mordecai learned what had been done, he tore his clothes, dressed in mourning clothes, and put ashes on his head. Then he went out into the heart of the city and cried out loudly and bitterly. 2 He went only as far as the King's Gate because it was against the law for anyone to pass through it wearing mourning clothes. 3 At the same time, in every province and place where the king's order and his new law arrived, a very great sadness came over the Jews. They gave up eating and spent whole days weeping and crying out loudly in pain. Many Jews lay on the ground in mourning clothes and ashes. 4 When Esther's female servants and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, the queen's whole body showed how upset she was. She sent everyday clothes for Mordecai to wear instead of mourning clothes, but he rejected them. 5 Esther then sent for Hathach, one of the royal eunuchs whose job it was to wait on her. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was going on and why he was acting this way. 6 Hathach went out

to Mordecai, to the city square in front of the King's Gate. 7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He spelled out the exact amount of silver that Haman promised to pay into the royal treasury. It was in exchange for the destruction of the Jews. 8 He also gave Hathach a copy of the law made public in Susa concerning the Jews' destruction so that Hathach could show it to Esther and report it to her. Through him Mordecai ordered her to go to the king to seek his kindness and his help for her people. 9 Hathach came back and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

10 In reply Esther ordered Hathach to tell Mordecai: 11 "All the king's officials and the people in his provinces know that there's a single law in a case like this. Any man or woman who comes to the king in the inner courtyard without being called is to be put to death. Only the person to whom the king holds out the gold scepter may live. In my case, I haven't been called to come to the king for the past thirty days."

12 When they told Mordecai Esther's words, 13 he had them respond to Esther: "Don't think for one minute that, unlike all the other Jews, you'll come out of this alive simply because you are in the palace. 14 In fact, if you don't speak up at this very important time, relief and rescue will appear for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will die. But who knows? Maybe it was for a moment like this that you came to be part of the royal family."

15 Esther sent back this word to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are in Susa and tell them to give up eating to help me be brave. They aren't to eat or drink anything for three whole days, and I myself will do the same, along with my female servants. Then, even though it's against the law, I will go to the king; and if I am to die, then die I will." 17 So Mordecai left where he was and did exactly what Esther had ordered him.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"Learning to Puzzle"

HYMN

Nearer, My God, to Thee 528 v 1, 2, 4, 5

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

(Prayer: unison)

O God,

we recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance.

In offering these gifts,

may we be strengthened to proclaim

your faithfulness and your salvation this day and always.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

God be with you till we Meet Again 672 v 2

God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you,

Daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.