

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

For Such a Time as This

Week 4: Our Decision

Esther 4:18-36

Week of November 15, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Esther found herself in a major dilemma! Would she risk her life to save the Jews, or would she take the safe path of self-preservation? Actually, we have to make the same decision!

Kicking it off: Jeff said that his favorite Fannie May candies are “Pixies” (also known as “Turtles”). Which Fannie May candy is your favorite?

Discussion:

1. Reread *Esther 4:8* Mordecai told him to instruct Esther to go into the king’s presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

Describe the problem facing the Jews. Why does Mordecai think that Esther is God’s solution to their problem?

2. Reread *Esther 4:13* Mordecai sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape.”

Mordecai knows that Esther is tempted to think that God’s providential work to make her queen was all about her personal safety and benefit. What are some ways that Christians today make the same mistake?

3. Reread *Esther 4:14* Mordecai said to Esther, “Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Mordecai believed that God’s providential work in Esther’s life was done so she could help save the Jews. What are some ways that God works providentially in Christians so they can be His means to advance His cause?

4. Reread *Esther 4:14* Mordecai said to Esther, “If you remain silent at this time, deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place.”

What does this verse say about Divine Sovereignty and Human Freewill?

5. Reread *Esther 4:16* Esther said, “I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

Esther heroically decided to live for God’s cause rather than her own comfort and safety. Can you think of any specific ways that God is calling you to turn from selfishness and live for His cause? If so, share it with the group.

6. Can you think of someone who has inspired you with their selfless devotion to God’s kingdom? If so, tell the group about them.

Wrapping It Up: Pray for the courage to abandon self-obsession and to live for the advance of God’s cause.