



Our Next Guest – Esther
Sermon Discussion Questions – June 26, 2022

Scripture Passages:

Esther 4:14 “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews **will** arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Isaiah 40:31 “They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Warm Up

Pastor Victoria started her sermon by telling us that she hates waiting, especially in the drive-thru. What is your least favorite thing to wait for?

Discussion

1. At the beginning of her sermon, pastor Victoria summarized most of the book of Esther. What do you remember about her summary and this book? Who are the main characters and what is the big dilemma? (Hint: skim Esther 1-5 and 7).
2. Read Esther 4:14:
About this verse pastor Victoria said, “Mordecai knew the Jews would still be delivered from their enemies... He was relying on the truth he knew about God.” It seems that he was looking to the past work of God to get perspective for His future promises.
How does seeing the faith of Mordecai despite difficulty encourage you in your trials? What deliverance has God already done in your life that can give you hope for the future?

3. Pastor Victoria did some math for us and showed that Esther had been waiting for 9 years in the king's palace before knowing why she was there.
How does understanding this time frame change the way you understand the story of Esther? When have you had a long season of waiting? How did you cope with it? Who did you look to for help or comfort?
4. In your past seasons of waiting, what have you learned about God? If you are in a difficult season now, what might God be trying to teach you? What are some of His promises that you can cling to for hope in hard circumstances?
5. Excerpt from Pastor Victoria's message: "Because despite exile, God's quietness, and Israel's moral compromise in the story of Esther, God did not abandon his promises and his people did not give up on waiting for him."
What can we learn from the Jews' example of perseverance in this story? How might seeing God's relationship with the Israelites here impact the way we understand his character? As you read through this quote, what can you learn about the Israelites and their relationship with God?
6. Pastor Victoria talked about the 40 years of waiting the Israelites had to do and said, They learned that waiting on the promises of God was just as sweet as experiencing the promises of God. Because it was in their waiting, they actually learned more about who God was and who he always promised to be."
How does this make you feel? Do you believe this to be true? Have you ever experienced this principle in your own waiting?
7. Toward the very end of her message, Pastor Victoria made this statement: *Our seasons of waiting are never wasted.*
How have you seen this truth in your own seasons of waiting in the past? How might reflecting on this truth and the story of Esther impact the way you view seasons of waiting?

Next Steps:

Read Isaiah 40:31

"...They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

How can you walk into these promises of God even during seasons of waiting? Do you believe that waiting on God is worth it? If so, how can you wait on Him well?