

Today's Message: "Age Old: Part 2"

Review - Age Old Truths from Noah and the Flood:

- 1 Wickedness breaks God's heart.
- 2 God desires a close relationship with all people.
- 3 God favors and cares for those who are in relationship with Him.
- 4 God blesses obedience. God will not bless disobedience.

Part 2 – Esther & Mordecai

⁷ Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people.

⁹ So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

¹⁰ Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: ¹¹ "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." ¹² So Hathach gave Esther's message to Mordecai. ¹³ Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" ¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. (Esther 4:7-17, NLT)

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Pastor Kent Chevalier

March 4 & 5, 2017

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Age Old Truths from Esther:

1. You will be faced with defining moments that will prove your character.
2. You need the wisdom and support of God and others in your life.
 - The blessing of fasting & prayer

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. (James 1:5, NLT)

3. Doing what is right is not always easy.

³⁹ He [Jesus] went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." (Matthew 26:39, NLT)

4. Your decisions to do what is right will impact generations.

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

(From the book 'Inconspicuous Providence' by Bryan R. Gregory)

1. When have you found yourself in a defining moment? What risks were there?
2. What factors made it difficult to act with courageous faith?
3. Did you act or not? What did you learn from acting or not acting that will shape how you respond in future defining moments?
4. How could remembering what Jesus did for you in his own defining moment have empowered you to act with courageous faith? How is it good news for you as you recall times when you failed to act with courageous faith?

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