

Monday Morning Rewind - August 18, 2008

Good morning. God has blessed you to see another Monday morning. You are here today *for such a time as this!*

On Sabbath, we examined the life of Esther and noted the contrast between her life of ease and plenty in the Persian palace, and the crisis threatening her life and the lives of her people. While occupied with palace duties, Esther was unaware of the plot to exterminate the Jews hatched by Haman, King Xerxes' chief officer of state.

Our situation is not unlike Esther's. While caught up in everyday ("palace") living, a socio-economic, political, religious, ecological and philosophical crisis is brewing. Lots are being cast in Israel, Iran, Asia, Pakistan, Rome and Washington today that will put our world on a collision course with prophecy perhaps before the next president is sworn into office. Like Esther, we too may be unaware of what is going on behind the scenes to bring about the final conflict between God's enemy and God's people. (See Daniel 7 and Revelation 13:11-15.)

In Esther we learn valuable lessons about how to do the right thing at the right time. Rewind to Esther chapter 4 to understand what we need for such a time as this:

- **For such a time as this, we need spiritual intelligence** (4:6-9). Read the Word-the intelligence brief, but also read people. What are the needs, fears, and insecurities of those around us?
- **At such a time as this, we must be involved.** There's always risk involved when you follow Jesus. For Esther there was no escaping the crisis. The same is true for us.
- **At such a time as this, we've got to speak up!** (4:13-14) This is not the time for the church to go silent. We have a message to share with the world and if we don't share it, others will get the opportunity we have shunned. The "rocks will cry out."
- **At such a time as this, we need to fast and pray in preparation to see the King.** (4:16) Esther was preparing to a life and death meeting. It was a moment of judgment. She wasn't careless or flippant. We, too, are preparing for a meeting with King Jesus. Carelessness should give way to prayer and seeking God with all our hearts.
- **We need "If Not" faith for such a time as this!** Esther's "If I perish, I perish" statement echoes the response of Daniel's friends when faced with the fiery furnace (see Dan. 3:17, 18). They were prepared to be faithful even unto death. Will I be faithful even if I don't get the job? Even if I don't get healed? Even if I don't get the settlement?

God put Esther in the right place at the right time to do the right thing and fulfill His purpose. To Esther was given the privilege of being a deliverer to her people. She was more than a trophy wife of a pagan king, enjoying the temporary pleasures of an earthly kingdom. She was made for MORE than that and so are we.

We are here in Kuna for such a time as this. You are here for a reason-for *this* time. Let us review the intelligence brief and fast and pray on behalf of the people who are about to perish in ignorance of the great battle underway. Amazing, isn't it? God must have a lot of faith in you and me to bring us to the stage of human history *for such a time as this.* -Pastor Randy

p.s. I appreciate the notes many of you wrote on Sabbath regarding our church and our ministries. Thank you for your words of encouragement, insight, and direction. If anyone didn't take advantage of the opportunity on Sabbath, but would like to voice an opinion, suggestion, or whatever, email me at randymax@cablone.net.