

HIDDEN GOD

A SERIES IN ESTHER

SERMON-TEXT DEVOTIONAL

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

TEXT || ESTHER 4:1-17

DAY 1

THE KING'S COMMAND: Read Esther 4:1-3

The last chapter ended with the king and Haman drinking and the city of Susa in confusion (3:15).

- As chapter 4 opens we read about Mordecai's response, how does the author describe his reaction?
- As the king's decree goes out across the empire, how do the rest of the Jews respond?

Read Genesis 37:34-35 (all of Genesis 37 if you want for context!) and Daniel 9:1-5 for other instances when the Jewish people have responded in this fashion.

- What are they indicating by their actions?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 2

ESTHER & MORDECAI'S FIRST COMMANDS: Read Esther 4:1-8

Record the actions in these verses:

- What is Esther's first response to the news that Mordecai and other Jews are wearing sackcloth and ashes?
- How does Mordecai respond to her gesture?
- What is Esther's first command to Hathak in this text?
 - *It seems that Jews throughout the nation were mourning, and yet Esther seems to have no idea what is going on. What does this tell you about her situation?*
- What is Mordecai's first command to Esther?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 3

ESTHER'S SECOND COMMAND & MORDECAI'S RESPONSE: Read Esther 4:9-14

- What does Esther command Hathak to tell Mordecai?
- What does her explanation tell you about her position at court and her character so far in the story?
- How does Mordecai respond to Esther's command?
- What does his response tell you about his worldview/faith?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 4

ESTHER'S THIRD COMMAND & MORDECAI'S RESPONSE: Read Esther 4:15-17

- What does Esther command "them" to tell Mordecai? What does she ask Mordecai to do?
- What does she intend to do?
- Why do people fast? Read 2 Samuel 12:15-23 for other instances when people have responded in this fashion. What are they indicating by their actions?
- What is Mordecai's response to her final command?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 5

HIDDEN GOD: Read Esther 4:1-17 (or simply reflect on the whole chapter)

As we mentioned earlier, the book of Esther does not mention God and yet this chapter contains hints that they were depending on him, and crying out to him to some degree in 4:3,14,16.

- Review what you learn in these 3 verses.

Think of a situation in which you feel powerless or a situation which overwhelms you.

- What steps can you make to turn towards God in this situation?
- In verse 14, Mordecai seems to be expressing belief in God's providence over their situation. What would it look like for you to live out your belief in God's providence over your situation?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication