

January 24, 2016

Message Title: *For Such A Time As This*

God's Word and the boy's sieve story...

God says of His Word in Isaiah 55:11, "It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

- Context of the passage in Esther...

Esther was just an ordinary Jewish woman who had been orphaned and taken in by her older cousin Mordecai. He was like an uncle to her. He ended up leading her to an opportunity to meet the king of Persia and she became his queen! But when someone evil came up with a plan that would end up destroying all the Jews in Persia. Mordecai asked Esther to intervene by talking to the king, but Esther was afraid because her relationship with the king wasn't like an ordinary husband-wife situation. She knew that she would literally be risking her life by talking to the king about it...
- **Esther 4:13-14, "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 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?"**
- God's will is going to be accomplished... *relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place.* It's up to us whether we choose to be a part of it.

Luke 19:20 says that the rocks will praise Him if we don't. God's going to get praised! What He wants to have happen WILL happen. But what a cool thing that He invites us to be a part of it!
- Esther chose to be a part of God's deliverance of the Jews. She said, okay. I'll do it.
- **THREE KEYS TO BEING A PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING:**
 1. **BE OBEDIENT**
 2. **BE READY**
 3. **BE WILLING**
- Esther's example...
- My sister Grace's example...

Application:

- God has placed you in your position **for a purpose**... Your job, your family, your neighborhood, your financial status.
Ask God for direction and act.
Obedience starts with small things.
Obedience begins in the secret place where no one is watching.
Start by being obedient and faithful in the small things.
Think about the recent Powerball for the lottery... People all had incredible ideas of what they'd do if they won the money. Grand ideas! But the reality is that you'd probably only do whatever it is you're already doing now... Just on a slightly larger scale! So be obedient with the ten dollars God has given you.
- Recognize that getting ready has to do with **staying engaged in the process**.
It might mean like it does for us, **Media Free Tuesday's**.
It might mean being more disciplined like an athlete that trains for a specific purpose.
It might mean teaching Sunday School or meeting up with someone to do a Life Journal.
- We need to **fix our eyes on Jesus**.
Let pastors and elders inspire you, not limit you.
Look to God for direction.
Our being obedient to God might look strange to other people, but He does extraordinary things with people who have **willing hearts**.

Proverbs 4:23-27

Keep vigilant watch over your heart; *that's* where life starts. Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth; avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip. Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions. Watch your step, and the road will stretch out smooth before you. **Look neither right nor left**; leave evil in the dust.