

August 1/2, 2009
"Esther: Your Time to Shine"

1) God orchestrates human history to put the right people in the right place at the right time.

Acts 17:26; Psalm 31:15

2) Faith Action Heroes put their faith in a great and sovereign God. Esther put her faith in a BIG God, Yahweh, God Almighty, the God of her people. *Matthew 17:20*

3) Esther's character put her in alignment with God and His purposes. She was...

Humble: *James 4:4 says "God opposes the proud but favors the humble."*

Obedient: *Esther 2:20 – "Esther continued to keep her family background and nationality a secret. She was still following Mordecai's directions, just as she did when she lived in his home."*

Teachable: *Esther 4:14a – "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."*

Selfless: *Esther 4:16b – "And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."*

4) Faith Action Heroes live disciplined lives.

Esther 4:15-16; Matthew 16:24

Fasting is a God-ordained form of self-denial. The spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, solitude and meditation are the path to a life of freedom and fruit in our walk with Jesus.

Luke 6:21a

5) God plans our divine appointments and our defining moments.

Esther 4:14; 1 Peter 3:15

These situations that occur in our everyday lives are critical moments when God wants to use us to radically altar the course of events for someone else or even for ourselves. Don't miss it, today is *Your Time to Shine*.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you see God as the one who orchestrates your life for His purposes? How have you seen Him do that? What inspires you most from Esther's story?

2. Review Esther's character and disciplines and talk about how she was ready for her time to shine because of her character. Which aspects of your character are you working with the Holy Spirit on now so you are ready for your time to shine? What areas of discipline are you developing?

3. Do you believe God has divine appointments for you? Are you looking for them daily? Why or why not? What would you say has been or is a defining moment in your life? Were/are you ready for it?

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