



SERMON NOTES

You Are Here

Pastor Carl Toti

August 15-16, 2015

Esther 7:1-6, 10 NLT

¹So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet. ²On this second occasion, while they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "Tell me what you want, Queen Esther. What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!" ³Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared. ⁴For my people and I have been sold to those who would kill, slaughter, and annihilate us. If we had merely been sold as slaves, I could remain quiet, for that would be too trivial a matter to warrant disturbing the king." ⁵"Who would do such a thing?" King Xerxes demanded. "Who would be so presumptuous as to touch you?" ⁶Esther replied, "This wicked Haman is our adversary and our enemy." Haman grew pale with fright before the king and queen.

¹⁰So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai, and the king's anger subsided.

Knowing where you are helps you get to where you're going.

What?

The story takes place in the 5th-century B.C. somewhere in the 470s or so. Xerxes I (519-465) is the king in Persia.

So What?

Aren't we often in the same situation? We try to follow the will of God. Our journey is never a straight line but a zigzag.

We can take an unintended detour.

Jeremiah 6:16 NLT

¹⁶This is what the LORD says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls. But you reply, 'No, that's not the road we want!'

But when we are making godly choices to the best of our ability we can be confident that...

Psalms 37:23 NLT

²³The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a

better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them (Hebrews 11:13c-16).

Now What?

1. You're Always on Call

Embrace your present location. You may not be where you want to be but you're not where you used to be. Stay busy for God.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV

¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

2. Embrace Risk

Esther 4:14 NKJV

¹⁴For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:16 NKJV

¹⁶"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

3. Have an Attitude of Gratitude.

When we're facing uncertainty, we can say to God, "I don't know what you have in mind, but thank you for the opportunity."

James 1:2-4 NKJV

²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

4. Be a Change Agent.

2 Corinthians 5:20 NLT

²⁰So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"