



The
Opportune
Time

Esther 6:1-14

Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven--

Genesis 22:11 NLT 11 At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

- At that moment = the opportune moment
- Earlier it would have lost its meaning
- Later, there would have been the first resurrection

Genesis 22:11 NLT 11 At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”
“Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!”

- Opportune = (of a time) well-chosen or particularly favorable or appropriate, well-timed
- The first trimester is not the opportune time for the birth of a child
- Harvesting hay in February—not opportune time

With God his opportune time will often surprise us

- Not just His timing but how he carries out His will
- Usually nothing we would have planned or seen coming
- We left the story of Esther and Mordecai in the middle of God unveiling his plan
- Neither truly understand what God is up to, but they totally trust Him

With God his opportune time will often surprise us

- They just know they are in the middle of God doing something
- They are in the middle of God's will
- **Esther 4:16 NIV**, Esther, "If I perish, I perish", may God's will be done
- We saw last week the sovereign power of God displayed against the corruption of evil

With God his opportune time will often surprise us

- It got worse for Mordecai according to our fleshly eyes
- **Esther 5:9 NLT** Haman was a happy man as he left the banquet! But when he saw Mordecai sitting at the palace gate, not standing up or trembling nervously before him, Haman became furious

With God his opportune time will often surprise us

- Mordecai knew he was in God's will and whatever God allowed was what he wanted, thus he was at peace, even in the presence of his greatest enemy
- Esther 6 God pulls back the veil just a bit and we get a glimpse of how He works behind the scenes to accomplish His will at the opportune moment
- When I look at Mordecai and Esther, I find four principles for all of life for every born-again child of God

When all seems lost, it isn't

- Mordecai could have despaired at his situation in Persia
 - The king was a Gentile that had no interest in the Jews
 - The king's primary, trusted counselor hated the Jews and planned their destruction
 - Esther's life was in grave dangers if/when the king finds out she is Jewish

When all seems lost, it isn't

- Yet Mordecai is not licking his wounds, holding a pity party or thinking, "Poor, poor me."
- He is simply trusting God when all seems lost because He knows when God is involved it isn't and God is always involved in the lives of His people

When no one seems to notice, they do

- Remember Mordecai's courageous decision to tell the king about overhearing of an assassination attempt
- It has been 5 years and no one rewarded or honored Mordecai for his great act
- Mordecai went on living his life unnoticed, unrewarded and unappreciated—until one pivotal night

When no one seems to notice, they do

- **Esther 6:1-2 NLT** 1 That night the king had trouble sleeping, so he ordered an attendant to bring the book of the history of his reign so it could be read to him. 2 In those records he discovered an account of how Mordecai had exposed the plot of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the eunuchs who guarded the door to the king's private quarters. They had plotted to assassinate King Xerxes.

When no one seems to notice, they do

- The king suffers from Godly insomnia and they just happen to be reading about Mordecai's account
- Hear the king tell the reader to Stop, Wait as God's thought enter his mind
- **Esther 6:3 NLT** "What reward or recognition did we ever give Mordecai for this?" the king asked. His attendants replied, "Nothing has been done for him."

When no one seems to notice, they do

- Momentous events often hang on the tiniest of things when God is involved
- I love the words, “During the night” in **Esther 6:1**
 - While the world sleeps, God does his best work in the darkest times
- God notices and cares during the night when our thought and fears are heightened

When no one seems to notice, they do

- A man who, up to this moment in time, meant nothing to the king, suddenly became the king's top priority
- Do you feel as if God has not noticed something, He has allowed others to excel beyond you, He has allowed the glory due you to be given to someone else

When no one seems to notice, they do

- Learn a lesson from Mordecai, he never became a man of vengeance or bitter
 - He continued in his calling to simply sit at the king's gate
 - He guarded his heart and I challenge you to guard yours in this me age

When no one seems to notice, they do

- **Hebrews 6:10 NLT** For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

When everything seems great, it isn't

- Don't get caught off-guard when all of your great plans are set aside by God to teach you something new and wonderful
- Haman's conceit had fogged his memory and he truly believed his position and honor was set and secure enough to manipulate the king and kill all the Jews

When everything seems great, it isn't

- Haman left Jehovah out of his equation
- J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*
 - “It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him.”

When everything seems great, it isn't

- **Esther 6:4-5 NLT** 4 “Who is that in the outer court?” the king inquired. As it happened, Haman had just arrived in the outer court of the palace to ask the king to impale Mordecai on the pole he had prepared. 5 So the attendants replied to the king, “Haman is out in the court.” “Bring him in,” the king ordered.

When everything seems great, it isn't

- He will be the first to have an audience with the king and finish off his hated enemy
- With the stride of a peacock Haman enters the king's court
- **Esther 6:6 NLT** So Haman came in, and the king said, "What should I do to honor a man who truly pleases me?"

When everything seems great, it isn't

- Haman thought to himself, “Whom would the king wish to honor more than me?”
- This is the moment Haman has been waiting for
- He quickly begins to list every glory he can imagine for himself

When everything seems great, it isn't

- **Esther 6:7-9 NLT 7** So he replied, “If the king wishes to honor someone, 8 he should bring out one of the king’s own royal robes, as well as a horse that the king himself has ridden—one with a royal emblem on its head. 9 Let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king’s most noble officials. And let him see that the man whom the king wishes to honor is dressed in the king’s robes and led through the city square on the king’s horse. Have the official shout as they go, ‘This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!’”

When everything seems great, it isn't

- Can you feel Haman's head swell as he hears the king say, "Great idea, couldn't have thought of something as imaginative as that. That's terrific, Haman"
- **Esther 6:10 NLT** "Excellent!" the king said to Haman. "Quick! Take the robes and my horse, and do just as you have said for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the gate of the palace. Leave out nothing you have suggested!"

When everything seems great, it isn't

- Can you imagine what was going through Haman's mind?
 - Did the king really say that hated man's name?
 - Wait, what, me?
- But what is Haman to do, it is a king's order

When everything seems great, it isn't

- **Esther 6:11-12a NLT** 11 So Haman took the robes and put them on Mordecai, placed him on the king's own horse, and led him through the city square, shouting, "This is what the king does for someone he wishes to honor!" 12 Afterward Mordecai returned to the king's gate.
 - The words must have been as gravel in his mouth

When everything seems great, it isn't

- But Haman was not near as surprised as Mordecai
- I appreciate the silence of Mordecai
 - He didn't goad Haman, wasn't vengeful, didn't whisper, "Say it louder"
 - When he was done, he went back to the king's gate, it didn't go to his head

When everything seems great, it isn't

- Have you recently been promoted or achieved something other consider great, is your name mentioned in popular circles, has God allowed you to prosper?
 - Are you still comfortable at the king's gate?
 - Country song, "Look how far I had to come, to get back where I started from...."

When nothing seems just, it is

- When everything within us craves justice remember **Romans 12:19 NLT** Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord.
- **Esther 6:12-13a NIV** But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, 13 and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him.

When nothing seems just, it is

- Haman most likely blamed everyone else without a word about what he brought on himself
- He did not seek mercy from God
- He did not learn anything from this
- But his wife and counselors did

When nothing seems just, it is

- **Esther 6:13 NLT** 13 When Haman told his wife, Zeresh, and all his friends what had happened, his wise advisers and his wife said, “Since Mordecai—this man who has humiliated you—is of Jewish birth, you will never succeed in your plans against him. It will be fatal to continue opposing him.”

When nothing seems just, it is

- God promise to Abraham in **Genesis 12:2-3**, “My people will be protected. You curse them, and you’ll pay a terrible price.”
- God was invisible, but He was not out of touch or passive
- He has not forgotten His people or His promises to them and their enemies

When nothing seems just, it is

- **Esther 6:14 NLT** While they were still talking, the king's eunuchs arrived and quickly took Haman to the banquet Esther had prepared.
- I think Haman's thoughts were similar to Judas' when he thought he sold Christ and realized the depths of his treachery

When nothing seems just, it is

- Old English saying

Still as gold

Men by themselves are priced

For thirty pieces Judas sold

Himself not Christ

The most significant principle of all

- When God seems absent, He's present
- Even if you think you have lost it all, God uses it as an opportunity to awaken you to the realization He is still in charge, as to bring you do your knees

The most significant principle of all

- Everything the marooned man owned had to be destroyed before he could be rescued
- God seemed to be so distant, but he was working on both ends

The most significant principle of all

- Where are you in this story
 - Have you been building your kingdom and missing your blessing
 - Maybe you feel that God has been absent or on hold in your life, distant in some way, but you now see he has been present all the time

The most significant principle of all

- God is impressed with a humble heart that comes to Him on His terms
- He never turns His back on anyone who truly comes to Him by way of the cross
- Have you? If not, will you this evening?



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