

# It's Time - Living For Jesus In Our Day

Sunday, December 8, 2019

**VIDEO:** The Bible Project - Esther

It's Time to stop swimming in cultural currents

It's Time to clothe ourselves with the beauty of Holiness

It's Time to take a stand for what's right

It's Time to understand that everything is written down

It's time for us to understand who our enemy is and how he operates

## **Esther 4 New International Version (NIV)**

**4** When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. <sup>2</sup> But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. <sup>3</sup> In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

<sup>4</sup> When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup> Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

<sup>6</sup> So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. <sup>7</sup> Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup> He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

<sup>9</sup> Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup> Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, <sup>11</sup> "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

<sup>12</sup> When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup> he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> 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?"

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

<sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

**It's time for us to BELIEVE that we were created to fulfill the purposes of God.**

### **New Testament Key Passage:**

#### **Luke 1:26-38 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## 1. No matter how SMALL and HUMBLE our BEGINNINGS

### **Micah 5:2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans<sup>[a]</sup> of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

### **Zechariah 4:10 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> “Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the LORD that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone<sup>[a]</sup> in the hand of Zerubbabel?”

## 2. No matter how INSIGNIFICANT we feel

### **1 Kings 17:12 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

### **1 Corinthians 1:27 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

## 3. No matter how UNQUALIFIED we may be

### **2 Corinthians 3:5 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

God doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called

#### 4. No matter how HUGE the OBSTACLES we must overcome

##### **1 Samuel 17:45 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

#### 5. No matter how DANGEROUS the CONSEQUENCES can be

<sup>11</sup> “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives.

<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

#### 6. No matter how ALONE we might feel

<sup>11</sup> “...But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God.

#### 7. No matter how DIFFICULT the JOURNEY may be

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do.

Imagine how difficult the Journey for Mary must have been?

## 8. No matter what the OUTCOME could be

When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.