

Faith Under Fire – “Uncle’s Last Request”

Video – Intro – Esther 1

Cue – Pastor

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Intro:

A. In the book of Esther we find a romantic story of a King falling love with a women.

1. Not only did Esther fall in love and become a Queen she changed the course of history.
2. Used by God to avoid having the Jews all killed.
3. And Exposed one of the Kings royal official and had him executed.

LEARN WHEN TO BE QUIT

A. Esther teaches us this lesson.

Esther 2:10 (NIV)

Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

1. Mordecai was not only Esther uncle but her mentor.
2. She listened to what Mordecai said and by Keeping her mouth closed preserved Esther’s life and enabled her to gain access to the king.

B. I ASK YOU – WHERE ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND ACCESS

MARRIAGE – BOSS – FRIEND – PEOPLES LIVES

1. So learning how to be quit and listen can give us access into another person’s world.
2. It certainly helps us to understand others better.
3. And it’s not until we understand the people around us that we can truly begin to have an influence in their lives – and perhaps change the course of their personal history.
4. Proverbs describes the kind of person who won’t be quit, it says

Proverbs 18:2 (NCV)

Fools do not want to understand anything. They only want to tell others what they think.

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5. This kind of person has a closed mind and an open mouth.
6. Instead of listening to gain a new perspective this person loves telling others what’s on his mind.

Proverbs 11:12 (NCV)

People without good sense find fault with their neighbors, but those with understanding keep quiet.

C. As believers we want to see people’s personal history changed – we want their destiny to be in heaven where they belong.

1. Yet so often believers are interested telling people how to run their lives.
2. But in order to get access and help change someone’s destiny – LISTEN.

LEARN WHEN TO SPEAK UP

Video – Esther 2

Cue - Pastor

A. The most difficult time in life is knowing when to move and when to speak up.

1. Esther chose her time to move and speak very carefully.
2. After she had approach the King she had perfect opportunity to make her voice known.
3. But instead of speaking she invited the King to have dinner with her.

B. By this time this was the third occasion she had approached the king. And then she came out with the hard truth.

1. But by this time she had the Kings HEART, MIND, ATTENTION, and the king knew her intentions were honorable.

Esther 7:6 (MSG)

"An enemy. An adversary. This evil Haman," said Esther. Haman was terror-stricken before the king and queen.

C. HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN TO SPEAK UP?

1. When asked (The king and Mordecai both asked Esther to speak)

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HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN TO MOVE?

1. When it will advance the kingdom - Esther’s message saved God’s people from annihilation

LEARN HOW TO SEE GOD

A. Esther came to see that her being the queen was no coincidence. She came to understand that God had a purpose for her position as queen.

1. Her Uncle reminded her in ESTHER 4:14

Video – Esther 3
Cue - Pastor

Esther 4:14b (NIV)

And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

B. Where you’re at in your life today is no mistake.

1. God has a purpose for you in your position at work, at home, at school in your neighbourhood. Your life, as it is today, is no accident.
2. God wants you where you are in order to work out “His-Story” through you.

1 Corinthians 7:17 (NIV)

Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

CONCLUSION:

1. Esther found herself at a fork in the road with only two options before her - - - - to deny her identity as one of God’s people or to offer herself as God’s instrument and become a history maker with God.
2. SHE CHOOSE TO SEE GOD IN HER CERCUMSTANCES AND TO USE WISDOM WHEN TO SPEAK AND WHEN TO LISTEN.
3. **SO GOD COULD BE GLORIFIED.**