

“The Story-The Queen of Beauty and Courage.”

Dave Stone

August 25th / 26th, 2012

©2012 Southeast Christian Church of Jefferson County, Kentucky, Inc.

All Rights Reserved.

For a full transcript and audio recording of this sermon please visit
The Living Word at www.livingword.org.

When we look at the story of Esther we see the main plot of this story is God saving his chosen people of Israel. But what makes this such a fascinating story is the way God works and the people He uses to fulfill His purpose.

In **Esther 1:10-12** we see Vashti had some convictions...she wasn't about to become some sexual object to be leered at by dozens of drunk men. In that day and age, to refuse to appear before your husband, especially the King, would humiliate the man... his authority is demeaned.

Esther 2:7 we see that Esther caught the attention of some of the judges, and she started advancing through the process. Before she could appear before the king, she was to complete 12 months of beauty treatments.

In **Esther 3:6** we see that Haman was a bona fide racist. So he devises a plan. His hatred for the Jewish people causes him to go to the king with his proposal to have all the Jews killed.

Then in **Esther 3:13-15** we see that Mordecai hears about this plot before Esther hears about it. He begins to wear sackcloth and he goes into mourning. Then he sets out to persuade his cousin Esther to save the Jewish people—HER people. Mordecai begs for Esther to go to the King and plead her case.

But, do not miss **Esther 4:13-14**: “For such a time as this.” Mordecai is saying to his young cousin, “Perhaps this is why you’ve risen from being an orphan to the first lady. God has orchestrated all of this for you to save His chosen people, but Esther is feeling major pressure in the unfolding of this plot. Is she to risk her life and play a part/role somehow?”

Mordecai is laying it on the line and saying, “Now’s the time Esther. We need you. This is the moment. And we’ve all been there. In those moments of truth...what will you do? Will you take a stand and do what’s right regardless of the consequences or do nothing, wimp out, be politically correct and let someone else do it.

When we re-look at the story of Esther we three things that we can learn from it:

- 1) Look for Opportunities.**
- 2) Search for God in the Process**
- 3) Have the Courage to Speak Up**

God specializes in turning defeat into victory. The Jews anticipated a day of judgment, yet God made it into a day of celebration. And some of you may look at your life and feel you are defeated concerning your career, your marriage, your kids, your moral character. Do not accept defeat. Don't give up! God has not abandoned you.