



BAPTIST CHURCH

**The Book Of Esther**  
**For Such A Time As This**  
“Sermon Four—I Was Made For This”  
**Esther 4:10-17**

**Introduction**

Last week we discovered Pride Is The Downfall of Foolish People.

As we examine Haman’s life we discover three significant truths about pride:

- Pride Is Deceptive**
- Pride Is Detestable**
- Pride is Destructive**

We also discovered the cure for the prideful heart.

The cure for the prideful heart:

- Conviction of the sin of Pride**
- Confession of pride**
- Repentance of pride**
- Practice Humility**

Today we are going to discover we were made for such a time as this.

## Scripture

Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to tell Mordecai, <sup>11</sup> “All the royal officials and the people of the royal provinces know that one law applies to every man or woman who approaches the king in the inner courtyard and who has not been summoned—the death penalty—unless the king extends the gold scepter, allowing that person to live. I have not been summoned to appear before the king for the last thirty days.”

<sup>12</sup> Esther’s response was reported to Mordecai.

<sup>13</sup> Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, “Don’t think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king’s palace.

<sup>14</sup> If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father’s family will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.”

<sup>15</sup> Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

<sup>16</sup> “Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish.”

<sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went and did everything Esther had commanded him. CSB

## Quote Of The Day

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness . . .” Jesus

Daniel Taylor, in his article “Letters to My Children” wrote: “When I was a child I was, like most children, afraid of things that go *bump* in the night. But I told myself (for no good reason) that monsters which lie under beds cannot break through blankets and sheets! By the time I was a teenager I wasn't afraid of what might live under my bed, but I was afraid of what my friends might have to say about the way I combed my hair.

What do I fear now? I am afraid, to put it simply, of living a life that doesn't matter. I am afraid of leaving the world exactly as I found it, no different for my having been here.

What are things which last forever? Justice, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and grace are a few. If we want our life to count, to be significant, then we must try to fill it as much as possible with these attitudes and actions. Citation: Daniel Taylor, Letters to My Children. Christian Reader, Vol. 31

Esther's story began with a severe problem that ended in praise to God for everything He did to save the Jewish people from certain death.

**Esther's life teaches us There are defining moments in our life.**

**A Defining Moment is** when we realize we have a choice to make, we must take action.

We will put our personal preferences and agenda aside step up to the plate, take our swing and stand up for what we know is right.

OR

We will step aside and walk away quietly because we are more interested in our well being as opposed to the greater good.

Esther's example teaches we were made with God's Kingdom in mind. When we realize this we will live knowing "I Was Made For This."

I was made for this:

**Esther's Problem — Esther 3:8-11, 4:1-4**

Then Haman informed King Ahasuerus, "There is one ethnic group, scattered throughout the peoples in every province of your kingdom, keeping themselves separate. Their laws are different from everyone else's and they do not obey the king's laws. It is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. ʹIf the king approves, let an order be drawn up authorizing their destruction, and I will pay 375 tons of silver to the officials for deposit

in the royal treasury.” <sup>10</sup> The king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> Then the king told Haman, “The money and people are given to you to do with as you see fit.” CSB

Three things in this text we learn about problems:

### **Problems cause Profound Distress vv.9-10**

If the king approves, let an order be drawn up authorizing their destruction, and I will pay 375 tons of silver to the officials for deposit in the royal treasury.” <sup>10</sup> The king removed his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> Then the king told Haman, “The money and people are given to you to do with as you see fit.” CSB

### **Problems cause Great Mourning 4:3**

There was **great mourning** among the Jewish people in every province where the king’s command and edict reached. They fasted, wept, and lamented, and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. CSB

The phrase translated “great mourning” comes from the Hebrew words:

“**Gadol**” an adjective describing mourning— meaning exceeding, bitter and extreme.

“**Ebel**” meaning to express deep sorrow.

Great Mourning is the passionate and emotional response to a major life changing event such as death, divorce, separation from loved ones and friends, health crisis, loss of job etc.

### **Problems cause Overwhelming fear 4:4**

Esther’s female servants and her eunuchs came and reported the news to her, and the queen was **overcome with fear**. She sent clothes for

Mordecai to wear so that he would take off his sackcloth, but he did not accept them. CSB

The phrase translated “**overcome with fear**” comes from the Hebrew words:

“**Chul**” — Overcome, meaning to writhe, to become weak, to be in anguish.

“**Meod**” — Fear, meaning an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that something and or someone is dangerous and likely to cause harm or death.

Problems depending on how serious they are have the potential to harm our:

Physical, Mental, Emotion and Spiritual Health

Family- marriage, children

Finances

Relationships

Jobs

Worship

Faith

Because problems are a real and harmful presence in our life we need to be aware of stress problems can cause and deal with it correctly.

**Six principles we can practice to help us overcome distress, grief, fear and doubt that problems can cause.**

### **1. Read and Study God’s Word**

**2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent (study) to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.” CSB

### **2. Believe God’s Word**

**Matthew 24:35** “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” CSB

**Psalm 119:89** “Lord, your word is forever; it is firmly fixed in heaven.” CSB

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.” CSB

### **3. Obey God’s Word**

**2 John 1:6** “This is love: that we walk according to his commands. This is the command as you have heard it from the beginning: that you walk in love.”

**Luke 11:28** “. . . blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” CSB

### **4. Pray**

**I Thessalonians 5:16-22** “Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> **pray constantly**, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Don’t stifle the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Don’t despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test all things. Hold on to what is good. <sup>22</sup> Stay away from every kind of evil.” CSB

**I Thessalonians 5:17** the Apostle Paul says to “**pray constantly.**” To pray constantly means to pray without ceasing. When we recognize the presence of God in our life we are aware that He is active in our life.

Prayer reveals our humility and dependence on God for wisdom, discernment, strength and guidance.

Prayer is the answer to every doubt, every fear and every anxious moment.

Prayer calls on God to work in our life according to His Will, for His Glory, and for our good!

## 5. Be Patient

**Psalm 27:14** Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord. CSB

**Romans 12:12** “Rejoice in hope; **be patient in affliction**; be persistent in prayer. CSB

In our lives we go through times of trial and adversity. As we walk through difficult times it is hard to trust God and be patient. When we are patient—we believing and trust God to meet our needs. Patience is not easy but it reveals our faith in God’s presence, His power and His timing.

## 6. Do not fear what you do not know

**John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.**” CSB

**Five hundred years ago, Michel de Montaigne said: "My life has been filled with terrible misfortune; most of which never happened."** Now there's a study that proves it. This study looked into how many of our imagined calamities never materialize. In this study, subjects were asked to write down their worries over an extended period of time and then identify which of their imagined misfortunes did not actually happen. Lo and behold, it turns out that 85 percent of what subjects worried about never happened, and with the 15 percent that did happen, 79 percent of subjects discovered either they could handle the difficulty better than expected, or the difficulty taught them a lesson worth learning. This means that 97 percent of what we worry over is not much more than a fearful mind punishing us with exaggerations and misperceptions.

Montaigne's quote has made people laugh for five centuries, but worry is no joke. The stress it generates causes serious problems. **The stress hormones that worry dumps into our brain have been linked to shrinking brain mass, lowering your IQ, being prone to heart disease, cancer and premature aging, marital problems, family dysfunction, clinical depression, and making senior adults more likely to develop dementia and**

**Alzheimer's.** Citation: 85 Percent of What We Worry About Never Happens  
By Don Joseph Goewey, Contributor, December 6, 2017.

**2 Timothy 1:7** “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.” CSB

**Matthew 6:34** Jesus said “don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” CSB