

**"Esther's Surrender"**

**Part 1**

**Esther 4-5**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Esther we cut our study off and left Esther at the point of decision. She had been made aware of the situation and the decree to kill all the Jews and Mordecai pointed out the fact that she was in a position to make a difference.

**Notice Esther 4:13-14**

Mordecai knew of the promises of God to the people of Israel. He understood God's sovereignty and that there was a possibility that Esther had been chosen to be the Queen so that she could be used by God to stop the slaughter before it would ever begin. He told Esther that she was where she was for such a time as this. Mordecai had faith that God would not allow the Jews to be killed but he did not believe it was right to sit back and do nothing. He knew that true faith in God should be seen in works.

**Application:**

This is also true of our lives. Works do not save us, but works are to be part of our lives after we are saved, True saving faith produces works and especially that show compassion and love for others.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

<sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

<sup>10</sup> *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

**James 2:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

<sup>15</sup> *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

<sup>16</sup> *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

*17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

*18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

*19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

*20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

The point we need to understand is that true saving faith will do something when it sees there is a need. A person with true saving faith will manifest compassion when they see someone who is in need. This is produced by the Holy Spirit who lives within us. This causes within us a battle between the Holy Spirit and the flesh. The flesh longs to only think about self. The flesh will desire to hold tightly to what it possesses, and it will resist when the Holy Spirit brings up the thought of sacrificing for others. The flesh will always long to take the safest path. If allowed to be in control the flesh will keep us from giving because it will convince us to worry about tomorrow. The flesh will point out that we may need something tomorrow, or next week, or even next year. So it will whisper in our ear, "Don't sacrifice what you have but instead lay it up in store for a "rainy day"." Or the flesh will convince us not to step through the open-door God has placed before us because it is dangerous. The flesh will never be comfortable walking by faith and trusting God for the unseen and the unknown. This is why the flesh cannot be permitted to lead and control us. We must be surrendered to the Holy Spirit for it is then that we can bear the fruit of the Spirit and glorify God. This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

### **Esther's Surrender**

#### **Notice Esther 4:15-17**

Here in verse 16 Esther has come to the place where every believer needs to come to. It is the place of dying to self in order to live for God. At this point in Esther's life she has completely surrendered over to the Lord. She is holding nothing back but instead she is sold out to Him and His sovereignty to use her life to preserve the lives of the Jews. She sent word to Mordecai that he was to lead the Jews in fasting for three days and on the third day she would go in.

#### **Application:**

There comes a time in every believer's life when they must forsake the comforts of life and stand in the gap for God. There comes a time when we must understand that it is

better to die serving the Lord than it is to hide in the shadows. Esther's life gives to us a wonderful example of how we are to live.

There is a wonderful picture here for our lives as believers. There was a reason why Esther would wait until the third day. The reason is because she is a picture of how we too are to be surrendered over and the third day points to the resurrection of Jesus Christ because it was on the third day that He rose from the dead. This is a picture of how we are to walk in the power of THE THIRD DAY. This means that we are to be fully given over to the Lord, controlled by the Spirit and it is then that the power of God is manifest within our lives. This is the very same power that brought Jesus Christ out of the grave, thus it is the THIRD DAY POWER. Let us notice Paul's desire as expressed to the Philippians.

**Philippians 3:10**

*<sup>10</sup> That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

Notice how Paul prayed for the believers at Ephesus.

**Ephesians 3:16-20**

*<sup>16</sup> That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

*<sup>17</sup> That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*<sup>18</sup> May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

*<sup>19</sup> And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

*<sup>20</sup> Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.*

**Romans 6:3-5**

*<sup>3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

<sup>4</sup> Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

In the book of Joshua we see that Israel would come to the Jordan River and wait until the third day to cross.

**Joshua 3:1-2, 7**

*And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.*

<sup>2</sup> And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

They would cross the flooded Jordan on the third day. This is a picture of how we are to walk in the power of the third day in order to gain victory over the obstacles of our lives. Let us remember what our Lord said about Jonah.

**Matthew 12:40**

<sup>40</sup> For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Let us also remember what happened after Jonah was spit out by the whale.

**Jonah 3:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

<sup>4</sup> And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

<sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

When we walk in the power of the third day we are walking in God's power, and it is then that His power works in us and is seen in our lives. This POWER OF THE THIRD DAY is

accessed when we surrender our lives to the Spirit of God. It only is accessible as we, like Esther, deny the desires of the flesh and we walk where God calls us to walk regardless of how dangerous, frightening or difficult it may be or regardless of the cost of the sacrifice. Let us notice the day when David encountered Goliath.

**1 Samuel 17:22-29**

*22 And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.*

*23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.*

*24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.*

*25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.*

*26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*

*27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.*

*28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.*

*29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?*

**Notice Esther 4:16 again.**

I just want to comment on the fasting that is mentioned here. It is interesting that prayer is never mentioned. If the Jews did pray and they probably did, the writer does not mention it. He does however mention the fasting which I believe manifests their hearts. Let me just touch on the fasting here and in the New Testament for a few minutes. Israel was only commanded to fast one day out of the entire year and that was on the Day of Atonement.

**Leviticus 16:29**

*<sup>29</sup> And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, **ye shall afflict your souls**, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:*

In the New Testament we who are believers are never commanded to fast but when Jesus spoke, He assumed His followers would fast.

**Matthew 6:16-18**

*<sup>16</sup> Moreover **when ye fast**, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.*

*<sup>17</sup> But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;*

*<sup>18</sup> That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.*

Fasting in Jesus day was associated with hypocrisy because of the religious leaders. The religious leaders would fast, and they make it know to those around them in order to look religious. Jesus told His disciples to fast in a way that only God knows you are doing so. Jesus also made it clear that fasting was associated with sorrow.

**Matthew 9:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?*

*<sup>15</sup> And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.*

Here we see that Jesus connected fasting with mourning. We can see several examples of this in the Old Testament.

**2 Samuel 12:15-17**

*<sup>15</sup> And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.*

<sup>16</sup> David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

<sup>17</sup> And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

**Jonah 3:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

<sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, **and proclaimed a fast**, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

<sup>6</sup> For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

<sup>7</sup> And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, **Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:**

**Conclusion:**

Getting back to Esther, the fasting of the Jews tells us they were broken in spirit. This affliction was permitted to make them dependent upon the Lord.

**Psalm 34:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup> **The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.**

<sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

**Psalm 119:67-68**

<sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

<sup>68</sup> Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.