

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS

Esther 4:10-17

Some Conversations Are Critical ...

- Background of the conversation between Queen Esther and Mordecai.
- Esther: a young Jewish woman who became Queen of the Persian empire.
- Time frame: between the first and second returns to Jerusalem during the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes I) between 486-465 B.C.
- Mordecai: Esther's cousin who served as her adoptive father after her parents died (Esther 2:5-7).
- Mordecai had refused to bow down to the king's second in command which prompted Haman to establish an edict to kill all of the Jews. (Esther 3:13). A copy of the edict is shared with Esther.
- What was at stake? The lives of thousands of Jews.

1. "If you remain silent at this time ..."

- Someone once said, "The unspoken word never does any harm". What a lie!!!
- Granted, there is a time to be silent (Ecclesiastes 3:7) and continual talking will lead to unavoidable sin (Proverbs 10:19).
- Granted, our focus is to be on being "quick to hear" and "slow to speak" (James 1:19) while we make every effort to display our wisdom through our few words (Ecclesiastes 5:2-3).
- But there are times for God's servants to speak and not be silent (Ecclesiastes 3:7).

Things that need to be said:

- **Words appropriate for the moment:** Proverbs 25:11; Colossians 4:6
- **Words of wisdom:** 1 Corinthians 1:20ff; Proverbs 1:1-12
- **Words of warning:** Ezekiel 33:1-9
- **Words of exhortation & encouragement:** Acts 11:23; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4; 5:11-14
- **Words of reconciliation:** Matthew 5:23-34; 18:15
- **Words of instruction:** John 4:7ff; Acts 18:24-28; Acts 11:13-14

2. "Such a time as this ..."

- Will we be opportunistic with our time/our lives? Colossians 4:5; Galatians 6:10
- God needs servants to accomplish His work. Can God be working in us if we are not taking advantage of the opportunities and situations of life that come our way? Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:20-21; Ephesians 3:20-21
- Will we be ready to "stand in the gap" and meet "pressing needs"? Ezekiel 22:30; Titus 3:14
- Will we be "useful to the Master"? 2 Timothy 2:21
- Opportunities are unique to each of us – no one else was in a position to act as Esther was.
- Will God be able to count on us for His purposes?

3. "I Will Go ... And If I Perish, I Perish"

- Will we exercise our will? Esther responded with the affirmation of "I will." Now with the conviction that "I must act."
- Will we commit? Will we call for the commitment of each other?
- Needed:
 1. **Commitment** – be thou faithful unto death. Revelation 2:10; 12:11
 2. **Action** – James 1:21-22; Luke 6:46-49; 1 Peter 1:13; Matthew 7:24
 3. **Persistence/Endurance** – Hebrews 12:1-2
 4. **Courage** – a life or death decision. Joshua 1:6-9; 1 Chronicles 28:9-10; 2 Chronicles 32:7
 5. **Humility** – Isaiah 55:8-9; James 1:21