

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 797  
Molalla, OR 97038

Pastor Dale Satrum



Phone: 503-829-5101  
Fax: 503-829-9502

---

**People Just Like Me**  
***“Esther: A Woman Who Embraced Her Destiny”***  
(Part 6)

**Intro:**

**I. Esther Embraced God’s Sovereignty**

*Esther 4:13-14 “...Don’t think for a moment you will escape there in the palace when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. What’s more, who can say but that you have been elevated to the palace for just such a time as this?” (NLT)* This is NOT a coincidence!

**A. Esther embraced the fact that her situation was not an accident**

1. An unknown Jewish girl elevated to be queen of the mightiest nation of the world. (From India to Ethiopia – 127 provinces)
2. Elevated at precisely the right time when a plan was set for the extermination of the Jews worldwide. (Haman)
3. In the right place and at the right time to protect her uncle from being hanged on the gallows that Haman built.
4. Was highly favored by the king above all other women.

*Esther 2:17 “And the king loved Esther more than all the other women and she found favor and kindness with him...” (NASB)*

5. Her uncle saw the hand of God in orchestrating events. Now he was encouraging Esther to embrace this fact as well. None of this was merely good fortune or luck. It was the sovereign plan of God. It became apparent that Esther had a destiny to fulfill!

**B. We must embrace God’s sovereignty over our lives**

*Eph. 1:11 “In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity to the purpose of His will.” (NIV)*

1. Your life is no accident. It is not based upon luck / fate / chance / God has a sovereign plan for you. Things have happened in your life that He has orchestrated.

2. Now of course, things have also happened in your life because of choices you have made or because of the choices of others. God didn't "make" all the painful things in your life happen. Sovereignty doesn't remove our ability to choose.
3. BUT, our ability to choose doesn't remove God's sovereignty either. God can take even the bad experiences in our lives and use it, and work out everything in conformity to the purpose of His will.
4. Many times though, we give too much credit to our choices, to fate or luck or chance, when really it is the hand of God. It is so important for us to recognize and embrace what God is doing. WHY? Because we also have a destiny to fulfill! (Can't embrace destiny without embracing sovereignty.)
5. I believe that we are a church of destiny. I believe God has raised Foothills up for such a time as this. It is not luck, fate, or chance that we exist. It is not a coincidence that we have survived. (statistics on new churches – majority die within first 2 years. We've already beat the odds.)
  - It's not luck that we are in this building. Not just good fortune how miraculously we were allowed in here. (a former grocery store)
  - The reason we want to purchase this property is so we can embrace God's destiny for us.
6. I also don't believe that it is an accident that each of you are at this church. I believe you are here because God brought you here for such a time as this. God wants to do a work in you, but also do a work through you as you embrace the destiny of this church. You're part of what God is doing!
7. We need to be like Esther and recognize God's sovereignty over our lives and embrace it! These things are not accidents / not coincidents, but the hand of God.

## II. Esther Accepted Her Own Responsibility

*Esther 4:16 "Go and gather all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king..." (NLT)*

### A. Esther accepted her role in what God was doing

1. This is how God's sovereignty and our free will work together. Within the realm of God's sovereign purposes, we have roles that must be fulfilled. We can either accept these responsibilities or reject them.
2. She and her maids were first going to pray and fast. All of the Jews of Susa were to do the same. It was a city wide prayer meeting!
3. She was also going to put some feet to those prayers by going to the king and inviting the king and Haman to a banquet. She had a plan and she was now going to execute it.

*Esther 5:4 “...If it pleases your Majesty, let the king and Haman come today to a banquet I have prepared for the king.” (NLT)*

4. Once Esther embraced God’s sovereignty in her situation, (once she saw God) then she had to decide how God wanted her to cooperate with Him. How is she going to align her life to what God is already doing?
5. Esther prayed, fasted, called others to do so; she sought the Lord, THEN, she took action. She joined God’s program.

**B. We must accept our role in what God is doing**

1. How does God want me to cooperate with Him in what He wants to see happen? God is working around us. He is working in this community? *Eph. 2:10 “He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.” (Message)* We are to join God! What’s God doing? *II Cor. 5:19 “For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself...This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others.” (NLT)* God is already at work reconciling people to Himself and He has commissioned us to join Him. God’s in the work / business of transformation!
2. Why are there not more people and communities being transformed? Is He doing a lousy job? NO! He’s waiting for us to join Him! He’s waiting for us to accept our role! Our role is part of His sovereign plan.
3. God is already at work in the lives of people in this community. God has sovereignly placed us here to cooperate with Him in this agenda. Our job is to align our lives individually and corporately in order to join Him.
4. How do we do this?
  - Getting involved in ministry (children / youth / Resource Center / Home groups ) Believe God wants to use you!
  - Actively invite people to church. (neighbors / friends / See this as your responsibility – expanded parking just for this purpose
  - Be financially consistent and generous. I will make no apologies for asking believers to financial support seeing people’s lives changed! You want to talk about a great investment?
  - Consistently pray. Pray that God would open your eyes to see what He is doing. Pray for the ministries of Foothills that the end result of each one would be the transformation of lives.
5. May we all be like Esther who saw God and accepted her responsibility.

**III. Esther Risked Her Own Mortality**

*Esther 4:16 “...If I must die, I am willing to die.” (NLT)*

*Esther 5:1-2 “Three days later, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the palace... When he saw queen Esther, ...he welcomed her, holding out the gold scepter to her...” (NLT)*

A. Esther was willing to sacrifice her life to do what was needed

1. It was against the law for her to approach the king without first being invited / summoned by him. As she approached the king, if he didn't hold out his golden scepter towards her, inviting her to come forward, she could have been executed.
2. This was a risky move. King Ahasuerus already had a bad experience with a rebellious queen (Vashti). I'm sure Esther was wondering how the king was going to interpret her bold move.
3. Esther put her life in the hands of God and left the outcome up to Him. What was the outcome? A destiny fulfilled. She was used by God to deliver her people. So much so that the Jewish people celebrate this event to this day. The feast of Purim.

B. Are we willing to sacrifice our lives to embrace our destinies?

- WHAT? Are you crazy? Isn't this exactly what the Bible tells us to do?

*Rom. 12:1 “And so dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask?” (NLT)*

- Since He gave up His life for us, is it too much for Him to ask us to give up our lives for Him?

*Mark 8:35 “If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life.” (NLT)*

1. The only way to experience the destiny that God has for you is to be willing to give up on the destiny you have for yourself. It's not that your plans and dreams are bad / wrong, they just don't compare to what God has in store for you. ( I wanted to drive a route truck for Willamette Egg Farms)
2. In fact, Jesus says that the more you live for yourself, the more you lose life. The paradox of the Christian life is that the more you give up your life to Jesus, the more real life you experience. (Can't have both!)
3. Being willing to sacrifice our lives to God results in the very thing we all crave...true life (satisfaction / fulfillment / peace / joy / significance). How amazing that the end result of dieing to yourself results in life from God.
4. Too often believers are paralyzed by their fear. They are afraid to give up their lives to God. Afraid to risk their natural mortal existence in order to experience a spiritual, supernatural existence empowered by God.

5. What are you hanging on to that is keeping you from experiencing the destiny that God has for you? What are you afraid of losing? What are you afraid of risking in order to gain all that God has?

I want to leave you with something that will help you remember some of these things and hopefully, create in you a desire to discover the destiny that God has for each and every one of you; and give us a desire to experience the destiny God has for us as a church family.

- I made an acronym out of the word **DESTINY** (see handout)

**D:** Decide to believe in God's destiny for you (the choice of faith)

**E:** Expect God to reveal His destiny to you (ask in prayer)

**S:** Sacrifice your agenda in order to experience God's destiny

**T:** Take action. Get involved serving others somewhere

**I:** Input from others. Let other people speak into your life

**N:** Never give up. (perseverance)

**Y:** Yield your life to God everyday

May God help us all be like Esther...A person who embraced her God ordained destiny.

How is God speaking to your heart today? How is He wanting you to take hold of the purposes and plans He has for you?