HAVEN OF REST BIBLE CHURCH • SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Living for the Kingdom

Sunday - November 15, 2026 • AM Service

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Speaker: Pastor David Spivey | **Primary Text:** Esther 4:13-16 | **Supporting Scriptures:** Ephesians 2:6; Romans 13:14; John 10:10; Ephesians 6:10; Galatians 3:3; Revelation 2:4-5; Revelation 3:15-17; Mark 9:29; Matthew 17:21; Isaiah 6:8; Romans 12:1-2, 21; Proverbs 29:25; 1 John 4:18; 1 Peter 2:9



Believers are not placed in earthly comfort to guard their own security, but are positioned by God's providence to step into kingdom risk for the rescue of condemned souls.

Core Message: God never saves and elevates His people so they can indulge in comfortable 'palace living' while a lost world perishes outside the gates. Through the life-or-death decision of Queen Esther, the Holy Spirit calls every believer to lay fame, fortune, and future on the altar of full consecration, exercise the rights of intercession, identification, and intervention, and step into total dependence upon God for such a time as this.

1. Primary Scripture Reading

> **13** Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king′s house, more than all the Jews. **14** For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father′s house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
>
> **15** Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, **16** Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.
>
> **— ESTHER 4:13-16 (KJV)**

2. Historical Setting & Biblical Typology: God′s Unseen Hand in Shushan (Esther 1–4)

Set in the opulent Persian capital of Shushan during the reign of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes I), the book of Esther records a moment when the entire Jewish nation stood on the brink of state-sponsored annihilation. Haman, an arrogant royal official elevated to second-in-command, secured an irrevocable royal decree ordering the slaughter of every Jew across the empire's 127 provinces. Inside the secluded luxury of the royal harem sat Esther—an orphaned Jewish girl known as Hadassah, raised by her godly cousin Mordecai—who had been providentially elevated to become queen.

Drawing inspiration from Harold Peasley's classic message *Your Place in the Kingdom*, Pastor David Spivey reminds us that the historical figures in Esther function as vivid biblical **types**. In Scripture, a type is a real historical person, office, or event that serves as a God-ordained mirror pointing beyond itself to a greater spiritual reality. They are not the full reality themselves, yet they illuminate how God works in redemption, spiritual warfare, and holy living.

- **Esther as a Type of the Child of God:** Esther's story is a true rags-to-royalty transformation. Orphaned, destitute, and powerless in exile, she was adopted, lifted up, and made useful for the kingdom and glory of God. Likewise, every sinner was spiritually orphaned and alienated from God by willful sin—until prevenient and saving grace intervened ("but God!"). We do not belong in the King's family by merit, but solely because of Jesus Christ.
- **Mordecai as a Type of the Holy Spirit:** Mordecai cared for Esther in her helplessness, drew her, counseled her, exposed Haman's wicked conspiracy against both the king and God's people, and faithfully reminded Esther of her personal moral responsibility. Even when his message was uncomfortable, Mordecai refused to let Esther sleep through a crisis—mirroring the Holy Spirit who convicts, guides, warns, and moves believers toward God's will.
- **Haman as a Type of Satan:** Haman was second-in-command in Persia—a sobering reminder that Satan is never supreme. Though Scripture calls him the "prince of the power of the air," he is a defeated, created foe whose doom is sealed; as Martin Luther sang, "one little word shall fell him." Haman hated God's people and wrote their death sentence, just as Satan comes only "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10). Yet Haman was ambushed by his own plot and hanged on the very gallows he built for Mordecai. Just as C.S. Lewis pictured "deeper magic" at the Stone Table in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Satan thought orchestrating the crucifixion of the Son of God would end God's plan—only to be ambushed by the Cross, which became eternal life and victory for all who believe!
- **King Ahasuerus as a Type of the Unregenerate Soul:** Caught between two opposing voices, Ahasuerus was pulled by Haman (who appealed to his

prideful head) and Esther (who appealed to his heart). So every unsaved person stands in moral tension: drawn downward by the world and sin, yet confronted by the prevenient grace of the Holy Spirit offering forgiveness, deliverance, and eternal life.

Biblical Character / Element	Historical Role	Spiritual Type / Picture	Holiness Truth & Application
Queen Esther (Hadassah)	Orphaned Jewish exile elevated to become Queen of Persia	The born-again child of God, redeemed from poverty to royal adoption	You were saved from sin not to stay silent in comfort, but to be useful for God's kingdom.
Mordecai	Esther's guardian who uncovered Haman's plot and urged her to act	The Holy Spirit who draws, counsels, convicts, and burdens believers	Never resent the Spirit's uncomfortable nudges; His burden protects you from spiritual sleep.
Haman	Vindictive prime minister who built gallows and wrote a death decree	Satan, a limited and doomed adversary out to destroy God's people	Satan is stronger than human willpower, yet completely powerless before a Spirit-filled believer (Eph. 6:10).
King Ahasuerus	Monarch torn between Haman's schemes and Esther's courageous plea	The unregenerate person facing a crossroads between sin and grace	God's prevenient grace breaks into darkened minds to make eternal salvation genuinely possible.
Haman's Gallows & Decree	Instrument of execution intended to annihilate	The Cross of Calvary turning Satan's deadliest attack into victory	What the enemy designs for destruction, Christ transforms into

Biblical Character / Element	Historical Role	Spiritual Type / Picture	Holiness Truth & Application
	Mordecai and Israel		triumph for obedient saints.
The King's Inner Court	Forbidden throne room where uninvited entry meant death unless spared	Approach to the Almighty through sacrificial intercession and faith	Self-preservation keeps us outside the throne room; surrendered faith finds the golden scepter extended.

Wesleyan-Arminian Truth — Free Will, Prevenient Grace & Spiritual Victory: Notice that neither Esther nor Ahasuerus was treated as a robotic puppet. In Arminian holiness theology, God's *prevenient grace* (grace that goes before salvation) awakens the human conscience, counters spiritual blindness, and enables genuine moral choice. Satan is real and dangerous, yet he cannot force a consecrated believer to sin. When we abide "strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10), we live in active victory over the devil rather than passive defeat.

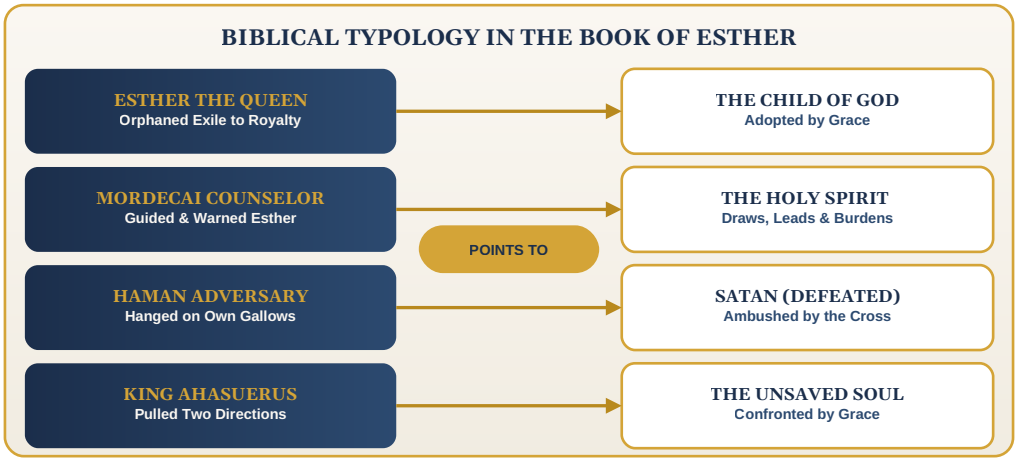


Figure 1: Every major character in Esther's Persian drama mirrors an enduring spiritual reality in the battle for souls.

3. From Filthy Rags to Royal Garments: The Fourfold Newness of Salvation (Ephesians 2:6; Romans 13:14)

Before we examine Esther's crisis, we must marvel at what grace first accomplished in her life. When Esther became the king's bride, everything about her existence changed—illustrating the radical transformation God performs when a repentant sinner is genuinely born again. Scripture never reduces salvation to mere mental agreement with facts; it is a thorough moral and spiritual rebirth that makes all things new.

Four Royal Blessings Given to Every Born-Again Child of God

- **1. New Clothes — Clothed in Christ's Righteousness:** Esther traded the dusty rags of poverty for royal robes. In the same way, Scripture commands believers to cast off the filthy garments of sinful habits and "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14). As the old holiness chorus testifies, the best

day of a believer's life is when he puts off the old robe of sin and puts on the new garment of salvation.

- **2. New Food — Nourished by Heavenly Manna:** Esther moved from meager exile rations—spiritualized by the prodigal's husks among the swine—to royal provision at the king's table. When God saves a soul, He gives a brand-new spiritual appetite for the Word of God, holy fellowship, and the daily sustenance of the Spirit.
- **3. New Home — Seated Together in Heavenly Places:** Esther was lifted out of obscurity into the palace. Pastor Spivey highlights the breathtaking mystery of Ephesians 2:6: God "hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Being seated in heavenly places means a true Christian is not meant to live defeated, endlessly begging for victory while trapped in daily willful sin. Rather, through the renewing of our minds, we learn to *operate from victory*—walking out what Christ has already purchased at Calvary!
- **4. New Future — Delivered from Doom to Purpose:** Previously, Esther belonged to a captive, vulnerable people with a bleak horizon. In the king's household, she gained a future and a hope. Child of God, if you truly know Jesus Christ, you are of all people most blessed!

> **Key Word Study — "Seated Together" (*Synekathisen*, Ephesians 2:6):** The Greek verb *synekathisen* is a compound of *syn* ("together with") and *kathizō* ("to seat or enthrone"). In Conservative Holiness theology, this does not teach sinless infallibility or unconditional eternal security apart from obedience; rather, it reveals our spiritual position and authority in Christ. Victory over willful sin is our present birthright, maintained as we abide in Christ and walk in the Spirit.

In Plain English (Youth Heart-Check): Imagine being promoted from the bench to starting quarterback on a championship team, yet still acting like you do not belong on the field. Many Christian teenagers walk into school defeated before first period begins because they forget who they are in Christ. You do not obey God to earn His love—you walk in victory because Jesus already broke sin's power and seated you with Him!

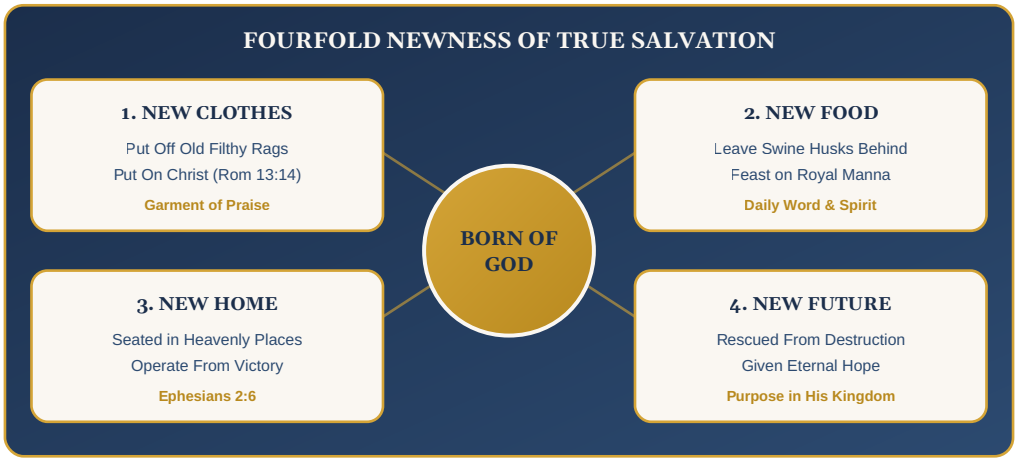


Figure 2: Like Esther entering the king's household, the redeemed soul receives new garments, heavenly food, a seated position in Christ, and a radiant future.

4. Five Uncomfortable Realities Esther Had to Face (Esther 4:1–14)

Here is where the story shifts from celebration to confrontation. Even a rescued child of God can grow drowsy in the comfort of blessings. Before Esther could become a vessel of national deliverance, God used Mordecai to confront her with five deeply uncomfortable realities that shattered her complacency.

1. The Reality of the Condemned Outside the Walls

Inside the polished marble walls of Shushan's palace, life felt peaceful. Outside those walls, Esther's people were under a scheduled death sentence. Pastor Spivey challenges us with the question he preached at Menorize: *"What moves you?"* And he recalls the piercing epitaph on revivalist Leonard Ravenhill's tombstone: *"Are the things you're living for worth Christ dying for?"* Coworkers, neighbors, classmates, and unconverted family members around us are literally headed toward eternal judgment without Christ. Until that reality grips our souls, our schedules will remain crowded with lesser things.

2. The Reality of Burdened Saints

Mordecai put on sackcloth and ashes and wept aloud at the king's gate. Burdened saints—believers who have heard the whisper of the Holy Spirit and carry tears for lost souls—often feel inconvenient or embarrassing to lukewarm Christians. Notice Pastor Spivey's crucial pastoral balance: he is not speaking of a harsh, critical, or condemning spirit (which is never of God, no matter how loudly it claims to be), but of genuine, tear-filled truth spoken in grace. When Esther heard Mordecai was in sackcloth, her first reaction was to send him nice clothes! She did not want her royal relative looking messy outside the palace. Too often, comfortable believers try to throw money, nice appearances, or quick fixes at a crisis to avoid getting personally involved.

3. The Reality of the Palace vs. the Kingdom

Esther was supposed to live in the palace, but over time she confused *the palace* with *the kingdom*. Living in America brings astonishing privileges—even modest American households enjoy comforts far beyond much of the globe. Yet palace living centers on *me, my comfort, and my safety*. It pampers the flesh and feeds the ego. Pastor Spivey offers a daring, honest check on our prayer life: while praying for "traveling mercies" is good, have we forgotten that God sometimes allows discomfort, trials, or even accidents to accomplish eternal good? When God called the Spivey family away from comfortable ministry in Shelbyville,

Indiana to a busy four-lane street in Mesa, Arizona—a diverse neighborhood with a high rate of child abduction—every human instinct would have said no. Yet because both husband and wife knew God had spoken, they obeyed, and God faithfully preserved all four (now five) of their children. Palace living protects the nest; kingdom living obeys the call.

4. The Reality of the King (Fear of Man vs. Fear of God)

Esther understandably trembled at Persian court law: approaching King Ahasuerus uninvited carried an automatic death penalty unless he extended the golden scepter. Yet for a season, she feared the king's displeasure more than the slaughter of her own people. Every believer reaches pivot points where we must decide whether we will bow to the fear of man (Proverbs 29:25) or walk in awesome, reverent fear of Almighty God.

5. The Reality of Her Position and Conditional Responsibility

How did Esther reach the throne? By the providential hand of God. How would she remain useful there? By continuing in the Spirit, not switching to self-protective flesh! As Paul asked the Galatians, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3). Furthermore, Mordecai delivered a sobering theological truth: **God has no special pets.** If Esther refused her kingdom duty, God would raise deliverance from another source, and Esther herself would perish (Esther 4:14). Scripture repeats this warning to churches: Ephesus risked having its candlestick removed for losing its first love (Revelation 2:4-5), and lukewarm Laodicea faced rejection despite thinking itself rich (Revelation 3:15-17). Pastor Spivey underscores this with the haunting account of a German church during the Holocaust located beside railroad tracks carrying Jews to the death camps. When the congregation heard the freight train approaching and the cries of condemned passengers pierced their sanctuary, the music director led them in singing louder and louder to drown out the screams. While none of us can save the entire world alone, we are strictly accountable to be faithful witnesses in every sphere God entrusts to us.

Spiritual Posture	Primary Focus & Motivation	Eternal Outcome
Palace Living	Personal comfort, physical safety, reputation, pampering ego and flesh	Becomes out of touch with dying souls; trades divine purpose for temporary ease.
Lukewarm Compromise	Trying to "send clothes" or sing louder to silence conviction and crisis	Dangers of spiritual blindness and removal of witness (Rev. 2:5; 3:16; Est. 4:14).
Kingdom Living	Seeking God's glory, carrying holy burden, obeying Spirit-led mission	Steps into historic usefulness, lasting fruit, and eternal reward in Christ.

Holiness Heritage — William & Catherine Booth's "Never!": When William Booth became burdened for the degraded, sin-bound masses of East London, respectable church leaders urged him to stay inside safe, conventional church walls. Before a tense church council trying to detour him into comfort, his wife Catherine rose in the gallery and cried out a single thunderous word: *"Never!"* That uncomfortable moment birthed the Salvation Army—one of the most profound holiness and soul-winning movements in two thousand years of church history.

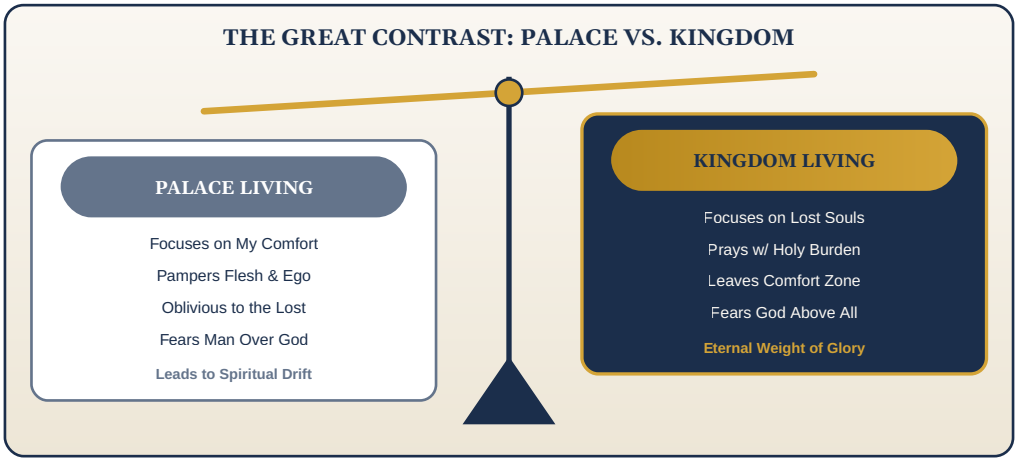


Figure 3: Palace living prioritizes earthly comfort and self-protection, whereas kingdom living weighs eternal souls above personal ease.



Figure 4: God shattered Esther's complacency step by step until she saw her position as a stewardship rather than a shelter.

5. Three Kingdom Risks on the Altar of Consecration (Esther 4:11, 16; Romans 12:1–2)

There is no genuine progress in any sphere of life—especially in the kingdom of God—without risk. Jesus Christ Himself risked everything for a world that largely ignored and rejected Him. Stepping from the palace into the throne room forced Esther to lay three treasured idols on the altar of full consecration. In Wesleyan-Arminian theology, this mirrors the crisis of **entire sanctification**, where a believer yields every earthly attachment to God in unconditional surrender so the Holy Spirit can cleanse the heart from self-centered fear and fill it with perfect love.

1. The Risk of Fame

With God's favor resting upon her, Esther was likely a well-liked, popular queen across Persia. Taking an unpopular stand meant risking applause, social approval, and public misunderstanding. Are we willing to look foolish or extreme to peers and even lukewarm churchgoers in order to obey God?

2. The Risk of Fortune

Having risen from poverty to wealth, Esther naturally appreciated palace comforts. As the saying warns, *"Luxury once tasted becomes necessity."* If our gratitude stops at temporal gifts—house, clothes, finances—we miss eternal riches better far than gold. We must hold temporal blessings loosely while prioritizing what lasts forever.

3. The Risk of Future

Esther remembered Queen Vashti! The very same king had banished Vashti for crossing his will. Entering Ahasuerus's court uninvited meant Esther's security, marriage, and earthly tomorrow could vanish in a single heartbeat. Yet she refused to protect her future at the expense of her calling.

Holiness Doctrine — Consecration & Perfect Love (Romans 12:1–2; 1 John 4:18): Justification pardons our past sins; entire sanctification purifies the believer's heart from the inward bent toward self-rule, pride, and the fear of man. Just as Esther had to surrender her fame, fortune, and future before entering the inner court, a believer enters Spirit-filled holiness by presenting his or her body and plans as a "living sacrifice." When perfect love fills the heart through faith, cowering fear is cast out (1 John 4:18).



Figure 5: True kingdom impact begins when a believer lays reputation, earthly comforts, and personal security on God's altar.

6. Three Kingdom Rights Exercised in Crisis (Esther 4:15–16)

Once Esther surrendered her fears to God, she stopped acting like a helpless bystander and began exercising the spiritual rights belonging to a daughter of the King. Notice how decisive, disciplined, and courageous her response became.

1. Right of Intercession

Esther called all the Jews in Shushan—along with herself and her maidens—to fast without food or water for three full days and nights before approaching the throne. Great moves of God are consistently birthed through fasting and prayer. As Jesus declared, "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29).

2. Right of Identification

At this decisive hour, Esther openly owned her identity: she was a Jew, one of God's covenant people! Half the compromises around us evaporate the moment we clearly mark ourselves as belonging to Jesus Christ. When we boldly testify, "I am a child of the King," we soon hear the Father asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8).

3. Right of Intervention

Desperate times always demand desperate measures. Just as catastrophic floods or public crises cannot be solved with half-hearted effort, spiritual darkness cannot be pushed back with casual religion. Scripture commands, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). Our entire holiness heritage exists because past saints prayed, got filled with the Spirit, and intervened.

In Plain English (Youth Heart-Check): Have you been living as an "undercover Christian" in the school cafeteria, on your sports team, or on social media so nobody thinks you are weird? Esther's breakthrough started when she stopped hiding who she belonged to. When you clearly identify yourself with Jesus and pray seriously for your friends instead of blending in, God turns ordinary students into spiritual rescuers!



Figure 6: Esther's rescue mission stood on three unshakeable pillars: fervent intercession, unashamed identification, and courageous intervention.

7. Total Commitment & Total Dependence: "If I Perish, I Perish" (Esther 4:16)

It is dangerously easy for modern readers to skim over Esther's concluding sentence without feeling the weight of her resolve: *"And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."* Unlike comfortable believers who casually say "whatever it takes" when the odds are safely in their favor, Esther faced genuine fifty-fifty odds of execution. That moment marked two decisive shifts in her soul:

- **Total Commitment — Crossing the Point of No Return:** Esther reached a sacred threshold where Esther was no longer the main issue. Whether she lived or died mattered less than God's purpose and the salvation of her people.
- **Total Dependence — Relying Wholly on Jehovah:** Earlier in her story, Esther had skillfully arranged royal banquets and navigated palace life. Now, however, her fate lay completely outside her control, resting entirely in the providence and favor of Almighty God. Pastor Spivey testifies that through the Menorize ministry, God has continually kept him on the cutting edge of faith—an

uncomfortable place where you cannot survive on human strength alone, forcing you to trust God every step of the way.

Consider the haunting questions of the song Pastor Spivey and Pastor Anthony listened to: *What if David saw the giant and decided not to fight? What if Peter saw the water, but stayed safely in the boat that night? What if Esther kept her silence just to keep her crown secure?* Every biblical ending we cherish was written because ordinary people stepped out of safety into obedience. What kingdom chapters will go unwritten if we insist on staying comfortable?

> **Hebrew Word Study — *Ka'asher Avadti Avadti* ("If I Perish, I Perish," Esther 4:16):** Literally translated, "As I have perished, I have perished" (from the root *avad*, meaning to be lost, ruined, or destroyed). In Hebrew idiom, repeating the verb expresses solemn, unshakable finality—neither reckless fatalism nor despair, but courageous self-abandonment into the hands of God. True Wesleyan faith does not gamble blindly; it obeys God's revealed duty and leaves every consequence with the Sovereign Father.

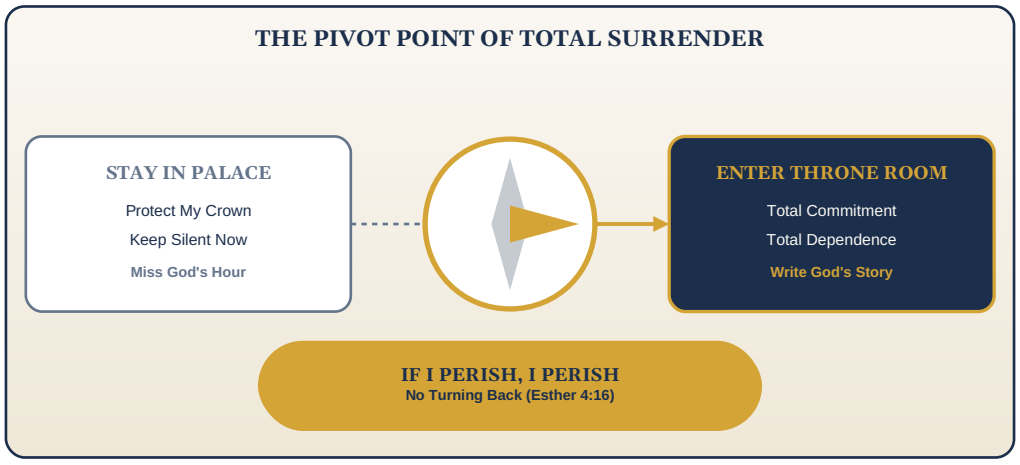


Figure 7: Crossing the line of

Full Original Sermon Message Transcript

+ EXPAND FULL TEXT

Amen. I so appreciate that special song this morning. Amen. Let the praise for all that He is about. Let the praise for all that He has done for us. Let the praise for all that He has done for us. And now let the praise for all that He has done for us. And neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I also in my maidens will fast likewise. And so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law. And if I perish, I perish. It's very easy to read over those words.

Pass over them without understanding the weight of the decision of the risk that she was taking. That God would bring his people to a place where they would say whatever it cost, whatever it cost, I will go forward, whatever it cost. Highlighting this passage from verse 14, think not within myself. Thou shalt escape in the king's house, in the palace, thou art come, I'm sorry, verse 13 and 14, thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this. This morning with the help of the Lord, I intend to preach from this thought, living for the kingdom, not the palace, living for the kingdom, not the palace.

Father, I thank you for the work of God. It is your will in these days that your kingdom be advanced through your people. Lord, cleanse, fill with your spirit, called and directed by the Lord of the harvest. God, we would be advancing the message of Jesus Christ, the greatest news ever or enter into this world. God, I'm praying that you would prepare, that you would fill, that you would propel every individual or in attendance this morning. Every individual connected to, or this corner of your harvest field, oh God, may we be people indeed living for the kingdom, for your glory and honor in Jesus' name.

And everyone said, you may be seated. This message has been inspired or has been significantly affected by a message I heard by a man named Harold Peasley, and his term was entitled Your Place in the Kingdom. I want to note in preparation for this message this morning, some of the characteristics or characters and characteristic of Esther in this particular storyline, Esther is a type of the child of God. Children of God, know that you have been, well, you have some similarities to Esther.

Esther was a rags to royalty, a rags to riches storyline. The truth is, this morning church, that from rags under riches, from the weak to the strong, we're not worthy to be here, but because of Jesus we belong. Amen? If you're a child of God, you were once orphaned. You were once away from God in your sinful, self-centered condition, but God, but God. And Esther is a rags to royalty storyline. She was destitute, but she became adopted, and she was made useful for the kingdom and glory of God.

Mordecai is a type of the Holy Spirit. Now you understand that types are just that. They're not the real thing, but they point us to the real thing. So Mordecai, he was a type of the Holy Spirit. He cared for Esther, he drew her, he counseled her, he reminded her of her personal responsibility. He helped reveal the wicked plan against, by Heyman, against the king and against the people of God, or the plan against the king, as well as the plan against the people of God. Mordecai in this storyline is a type of the Holy Spirit, the one that moves us, draws us, leads us, guides us. Hallelujah, I thank God for the Holy Spirit.

Heyman, Heyman is a type of Satan. He was second in command. Don't forget church, that the devil is second in command. Actually he's down the list further than that, you could argue. But he is not all powerful. He is doomed to defeat. One final word shall fail him. One final word. When Jesus speaks the word, when it's time, he will be eternally bound. And that's a good place to say, hallelujah, glory be to God. Now he isn't work, and he's the prince of the power of the air. We know that. He is stronger

than you, and he's stronger than me, unless church, we are strong in the Lord and the power of his might. Hallelujah.

So Heyman hated the Jews, or he hated God's people. Satan hates you this morning. He hates your family. He hates the people of this earth. He is out to steal, kill, and destroy. Heyman had written the descents for God's people. Satan has seeking to write the descents for God's people. But he was, he was ambushed by his own plans. I love that. If you are familiar with the storyline of the Chronicles of Narnia, line the witch in the wardrobe. The secret truth is revealed to the children in the storyline that there was, it uses the term deeper magic, but there's a deeper law going on, that the one who was killed at the stone table, that through that death would end up coming life and redemption.

Isn't that the way it was, the way it is with Jesus? Heyman, there's a truth that is Jesus led people to crucify the Son of God. He did so, ambushed by his own plans. That became life, and victory, and possibility for everyone, I say, glory be to God. You see, Heyman built gallows for Mordecai, but ended up being hanged on those very gallows. King of Hazaria is possibly a type of the unsaved. He's a man that's being faced with two different directions. He's torn by both Heyman, who appealed to his head, and Esther, who appealed to his heart. And so is the unregenerate person.

They are drawn by this world, the pathway of sin, but thank God for the voice of the Holy Spirit that interjects into their pathway, the possibility of victory, and grace, and life, and eternal redemption, glory be to God. These are interesting and important types there throughout the storyline of Esther. Esther, because she became an adopted, you could say, child of God, with a specific purpose and calling upon her life. She received newness when she became the King's bride. She got new clothes. We could say that she went from the filthy rags of poverty to a garment of royalty. That sound familiar? Hallelujah.

The scripture calls us church to put off the robes of sin, and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what happens. The best day I ever went to house the course line, go, when I put off the old robe and put on the new. Sorry for messing those lyrics up. She received new food from feeding amongst the swine as it were to heavenly mana, royal mana, royal food. She had a new home. She went from a place much lower than the palace, exalted into a place that she didn't deserve. And we, friends, are being brought into. When you are saved, I mean when you're truly born of God, the mystery of Ephesians chapter 2 is a mystery that I pray God reveals to us in a greater measure church, and that is the truth that we have been seated together with Christ in heavenly places.

This morning, that doesn't mean you're accessing it, but I am here to tell you that that privilege is ours. When you've been seated together with Christ in heavenly places, that means you are called to walk out a Christian life from a place of victory. Christ has already won the victory. We think we're looking for victory. God has wanted to shift our mindsets by the renewing of our minds and we understand that we're operating from victory. And Christ wants to make that real in every area in sphere of our lives.

Well, hallelujah. From victory under victory, his army shall he lead. Glory be to God. And Esther had a new future. She was no longer a captive of assumed to be doomed people, but she had been given a future and a hope. Child of God, if you know him, you are of all people most blessed. Glory be to God. I want to note some of the realities of Esther's situation. The reality, one reality of Esther's situation was the reality of the Jews that they were condemned. Their judgment day was scheduled. Esther needed to understand the outside her walls. There were people, her people that were condemned to die and were without hope.

Church, do we understand? Do I understand this morning that all around us are people whose judgment day, whose death sentence is scheduled? I preach this week at Menorize, what moves you? What moves you? And

God helped me and God helped us church to be more moved by the thought of someone entering eternity without the eternal gift of salvation. That all of the other details that so consume our time and energy, it doesn't mean they don't matter, but they don't matter most. And then we got to help us to understand the eternal decis of people are why Christ died.

This Leonard Ravenhill, I believe it's on his tombstone, that asks the question, are the things you're living for worth Christ dying for? And Esther was brought to an uncomfortable reality. And the reality was that her people, her people were doomed to destruction. Church, that is an uncomfortable reality. The people around us, the people we work with, the people we live by, family members and the list goes on, they are apart from Christ, they are doomed to destruction. William Booth in his day, he's now a hero, the founder of the Salvation Army is now a hero. But in his day, in his day, he was so deeply burdened by the people of East London.

That he literally removed himself from the comfortable surroundings of his church, et cetera. The good people even of his day looked at him with such a skewed eye. Those people, no, William, stay comfortable. William, stay in the ranks that, you know, just be working in the church. But he had a burden from God upon him, because he began to see with the eyes of the spirit, he began to see that there were people, populating East London, that broken, sin-bound area of London was wretched place. It was a place you'd want to stay away from, understandably so.

But God had so put upon him the reality that they were a doomed people, that William and Catherine had a call in their spirit that they had to. Even if the other people didn't understand, other good people, other godly people didn't understand, there was a reality that began to grip their souls. And I pray that God helps us to have a reality of the conditions around us that grip our souls. And there was also the reality of Mordecai. Mordecai was

burdened. Church, burdened saints are sometimes uncomfortable to the rank and file Christian.

Saints who have heard the whisper of God's spirit, saints who have received a burden from above, sometimes thank God they are, but sometimes they are a burden, they are a bit of an inconvenience to the rank and file who are just a bit lukewarm and apathetic. It's the truth of it. Do you that Mordecai became an uncomfortable point in Esther's life? I thank God for saints of God who have made me uncomfortable. I don't mean I liked it in the moment, but something about their spirit, something about the burden, I'm not talking about their spirit of condemnation.

I'm not talking about spirit of harshness, I'm not talking about a spirit of criticism, but that's not of God, even if it claims to be. I'm talking about a genuine burden, tears, uncomfortable truths spoken with the truth, they're spoken with grace but they're truth and the less. Mordecai, he spoke into Esther with an uncomfortable truth and Esther, interestingly, first thing she does when she hears that he's in sackcloth and ashes, she sends clothes to him, wait a minute, I'm here, that doesn't look good.

God delivers from being first consumed with what looks good. So she sends him good clothing and Mordecai, hang on a minute, and this is a bit extreme. It's kind of embarrassing to be the queen and my relative was out there with sackcloth and ashes, weeping and burden and praying. The reality of Mordecai was he was burdened. You see, it would lend the idea that Mordecai began to help Esther understand that through the busyness and possibly the luxury of palace living, that Esther's heart had caused her to be a bit distant and divided and lack of understanding of what really was going on in the kingdom.

It wasn't that Esther intended to drift from communion with her counselor, but rather that her priorities had gradually adjusted with all that entailed palace living. Mordecai came along dressed in sackcloth and Esther's initial reaction was to send him clothes, but she was actually the one that

was out of touch. She was out of touch with the depth of the current crisis. Her people were doomed to destruction. Meanwhile, Esther is enjoying comfortable palace living too much to notice.

And she, in that moment, endeavored to give stuff rather than getting involved in the process. I referenced William and Catherine Booth as they were before the church council. Catherine was sitting up in the balcony, and the church council was seeking to detour William from this god-given burden that he had. As you familiar with the story, they're calling him to stay comfortable. They're calling him to stay in the safe zone. And the middle of it, Catherine, his wife, cries out from the top, from the first balcony. She cries out, never!

As they are asking him to stay in his comfort zone and fail to go out to the burden god had given him. They don't think that that was a comfortable church council. Not at all. It was quite uncomfortable. And it led them to do something that the people of god in their generation did not understand. But now we look back and say that was the most, one of the most profound moves of god in over 2000 years of church history. You understand, it required some realities that made some individuals uncomfortable.

Esther had to become uncomfortable for her to understand the reality that was before her. There was the reality of the palace. You see Esther had come to the kingdom with a purpose. God had chosen or named her to be queen. But like so many of us, Esther over time seemed to confuse the palace with the kingdom. Now she was supposed to live in the palace and there were privileges that came to the palace. By the way, we live in America. There are unbelievable privileges that come with living in America.

The poorest of us are so much ahead of people all around the world. You see palace living focuses on me and my comfort. It's focused on security, I pause. I shared this the other night. I share it with you. How many here

pray for traveling mercies? I started going record I believe in praying for traveling mercies. But did you know that it actually could be God's will that you get in an accident? Oh yes. God has often allowed tragedies to enter into our lives to work eternal good.

Are you with me church? When God called the Spivey family out of Shelbyville, Indiana in the ministry that we were involved with, content with, etc. He called us to move our family for little children. He called us to move our family to Mesa, Arizona, the particular region on a busy four lane street, a community with multiple ethnicities, as well as we found out I think in the process or later, a high area for child abduction. So this is not glorifying the Spivies. Please hear it. Would you have moved your family there?

My hope is you would answer no unless God told us to, because I knew John Wayne God told us to. My wife knew God told us to. By the way, all four of our children are still with us. Five now before then. Church. Far too long. We've been consumed with God keeping us in our nest safe. Hallelujah. Palace living makes me oblivious to the needs of others. Palace living. Pampers and feeds my flesh. My ego. Girl in need that Jesus died for. Kingdom living inspires me to pray with burden and take holy kingdom action. There was reality of the king.

I see Esther feared the possibility of the king's displeasure, understandably so. This source says she seemed to fear for her own life and breaking Persian court customs more than for the slaughter of her people. You see Esther like us was tempted to avoid the potential danger to her own life by petitioning the king invited. And she had to address whom she feared most. Did she fear the king? Her husband yes, but the king who could remove her life or did she fear God? I don't mean cowering fear. I mean awesome referent fear that would call her to obey him regardless of what happened with the king.

Church. God will not let us avoid the truth that we're going to have to consistently be brought to the pivot points in our journey. Are we going to be God or coward to the fear of man? That's the truth of it. Well goes on. There was the reality of her position. Her security. Let me ask you this. How had she gotten to the kingdom? The providence will handle God. How is she going to stay in the kingdom? Paul poses a question that has become a spiritual understanding of mine. I'm seeking for it to operate in every sphere of my life with the help of God.

Paul posed a question to the Galatians. Are you so foolish to think that you begin in the spirit but then somehow continue in the flesh? No, no, no church. It's Jesus beginning to end. It's the leadership of the spirit in your life from beginning to end all the way along it is Jesus. Jesus led me all the way. And what God was wanting to prove especially and freshly to Esther is that she had come to the kingdom. She'd come to the palace for such a time as this. And the same God who put her in this unbelievable position was the same God who was going to sustain her in that position.

She was not to now protect her position by staying in her comfort zone by staying in a palace mindset. Esther was faced with the reality that God does not have special pets. If she failed to live out her kingdom work God would accomplish her will through another. But understand this remission of duty would eventually cost her her own life. Mordecai said to her don't think you're going to be saved in this process. If we forget our God ordained kingdom calling to be about the business of rescuing lost her humanity because we are too busy decorating our palaces be warned that death will come.

We see it throughout the scriptures when when Ephesus lost its first love. When the people lay at a sea it were lukewarm thought they were rich but in reality they were wretched poor destitute. Both were in danger of removal. The tragic apathy of the Christian church in Germany during the Holocaust who quietly and comfortably sat by as they literally watched

the extermination of entire group of people as a reminder to us church this morning. The story is told best I know it is a true story.

The stories told the Christian church it was situated beside a railroad that regularly carried Jewish passengers to the horrific end. Every Sunday as the freight train passed by loaded with Jews on their way to the gas chambers. The church congregation would be a costee with the cries and screams of the panic passengers. The noise was quite uncomfortable it was very unsettling the church people. They didn't like it and I wouldn't have either and you wouldn't have either. Listen to their solution best I know this is a true story.

Here was their solution. Eventually they strategized that when they would hear the sound of the train coming the music director would come to the platform and lead the congregation in such hearty and loud singing that the cries of the condemned would be drowned out. The church we would rightfully shake our heads at that. You understand the cries of condemned people are all around us and I cannot save them all and you cannot save them all. But through the leadership of God spirit we are called to be witnesses unto him in all the domains and spheres that God has given us responsibility in doing our part.

We've been given such a time as this church. I want you to note not only the reality is the Esther had to face but I want you to notice the risk the Esther was called to take. I am more convinced than ever church is your pastor that this is a time for kingdom risk. This is a time for kingdom risk. Actually that's what our Lord Jesus Christ did. He risked it all for a world who has largely ignored and rejected him. The principle of progress is that there is no progress in any sphere of life without some measure of risk.

Note some of the risk that she had to face. There was a risk of her fame. It's very likely that Esther had become a pretty popular queen in that season. With the spirit that we sense about her, with the favor of God that was upon her, I have a feeling Esther in the land was a pretty popular

queen. I can't be dogmatic on that but I think that it's true. And taking this step posed her to be in a position where she risked this popular favorable view of the people at large in that kingdom.

Am I willing, are you willing to face the misunderstanding of those around us to take kingdom risk? God's calling us too. There was also the risk of her fortune because you see Esther had gone from rags to riches and I actually think she kind of enjoyed it. I would. God blessed us with a house that's way better and bigger than we deserve. That's true. I'm just going to tell you I like it. No, I really do. I tell my wife that regularly. I can't believe we live there. I still pinch myself.

It's a blessing from above. And I'm just going to tell you I think Esther kind of liked the palace. I'm just going to tell you I'm going on record. I enjoy comfort over discomfort. Anybody here with me? That's my preference. It's human nature, isn't it? Someone has said luxury once tasted becomes necessity. The songwriter said this way. And the hope of heaven's glories thrills me so where I'll live with Christ forevermore I know. That is why the things of life I loosely hold.

I've eternal riches better far than gold. How am I and how are you holding the temporal? I emphasize the word temporal. The temporal blessings of God in our lives. Because if you and I spend the Thanksgiving season just thanking God for house, clothes, family, finances. Do you understand that all of those things are temporary? And I know family can be eternal in a sense. But the family, please hear this church. Family is temporal in the sense that all of your family is not guaranteed to be eternally with you.

We pray so. We work so. But if you and I just spend our Thanksgiving season thanking God for the temporal blessings which we should thank Him for. But fail to understand the eternal blessings. We will be woefully insufficient in our praise, our gratitude. How easy it is to sing a tent or a cottage why should I care? But the truth is we care quite a bit. She had a risk of losing her fortune. She did. She had a risk of her future. No doubt

she remembered what happened to Vashtai, the queen before her same king.

When she made him upset, when she got out of line, she was banished. And she was painfully poignantly aware that her future could be destroyed with one wrong step with this husband of hers. He had already demonstrated it. It was a real risk. It's easy for us to think back. Oh man, that's Esther. What about us today? I want to note some of the rights which she exercised as I'm trying to wind it down. She exercised church the right of intercession. What she do? She calls for fasting and prayer.

She exercised her right to go before the king. The great works of God are regularly consistently birthed through prayer and fasting. Jesus spoke to His disciples. This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting. There are certain things church that we will never be able to accomplish for the glory and honor of God for the purposes of God without committed prayer and fasting. God's calling us having a respite with church to prayer and fasting. Kingdom vision encourages profoundly lacking in our day but it will be discovered in the throne.

There was the right of identification. It was at this moment, at this critical pivotal moment that Esther revealed that she was a Jew. She just went full on in identification mode. I'm just going on record. I'm one of God's people. I'll tell you so many challenges around you will be addressed if you just clearly mark yourself as one of God's people. This was the time. Hallelujah. I'm a child of the king. A child of the king. With Jesus my Savior. I'm a child of the king. Hallelujah.

And when you identify yourself as a child of the king, when you begin to hear the voice of the father, freshly and boldly making yourself known, it won't be long before you will hear him saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? Because God, like you parents, is vitally interested that his children be productive. You think we as parents when our children are

growing be productive and God doesn't care if we are in that which matters? Of course he cares. He's vitally interested in this.

And she also, she also exercised here the right of intervention. In other words, God helped her to understand through the uncomfortable voice of Mordecai that this was her time. That she must do something. And she dare not fail in intervening in the way that she was called to you for this moment. Desperate times have always demanded desperate means. Anybody here believe that we are in difficult and desperate times? Anybody here? No. Six of you. Okay? I'm talking to the six of you then.

Somehow we think in desperate times we can get by with mediocre or moderate action. When crises comes, what do we do? The flooding that happened in North Carolina, what, three years ago? When pandemic came six years ago, we can argue if it was overblown, etc. But bottom line is, when desperate times come, there are desperate measures necessary. Oh, the scripture says, you've heard from Pastor Spivey over and over. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Did you know that the reason we have a spiritual heritage?

Because in some desperate times of the past, some people of God were willing to take desperate means. It wasn't. Everything was comfortable. Rosie, good. And so here comes this great work of God. No, just the opposite. Things were desperate, terrible, difficult. As the people got on their face before God were transformed by Him, filled with His spirit and took a risky kingdom action. Everything was changed. Well, the responsibilities which she's shouldered. By the way, church, you and I have a personal responsibility.

What she do, she took responsibility and she said, if Mordecai parishes, he parishes. No, she said, okay. If I perish, I perish. Please understand. She didn't say that like I would say it. She said it, knowing that she really could perish. I can say that. My perish, my perish. Knowing that the odds are pretty good with me. But one could argue that the odds were 50-50 for

her. And when it comes to dying, those aren't good odds. She made total commitment. There came an appointment Esther's heart where there was no turning back.

This level of commitment meant that Esther wasn't the issue anymore. Whatever happened to her did not ultimately matter. There were more important things at stake than Esther. It led her to total dependence. Unlike many other feasts where she had attended and orchestrated, Esther came to this feast completely dependent upon the providence and favor of Jehovah God. Her fate was in the hands of another. Total dependence is quite uncomfortable, but it is gloriously blessed. Hang on church, hear me for just a minute.

Over the last few years, especially through the journey of Menorize, God has been keeping me on the cutting edge of faith. It is uncomfortable. But what I've come to understand to this Mitch is that that's how God once all his children live. God wants us to live in such a way where he's pressing us forward to do things, to be involved in things that push us outside of what we can just do in our own strengths. If that's God, it's going to require that I've got to trust Him. Because I know I can't do that alone.

Are you with me church? That's for everyone of God's children. There was the risk of total dependence. Anthony and I listened to a song yesterday. I'm just going to share a small portion of it. What if David saw the giant and decided not to fight? What if Peter saw the water but stayed safely in the boat that night? What if Esther kept her silence just to keep her crown secure? The endings would have been quite different. Are you with me? And what if you and I stay comfortable?

Some kingdom endings will fail to be properly written. Pastor Anthony at the beginning of this service talked about a man named Rich who came to menorize. That's Rich right there. Those of you who are on social media following deliverance bus, you probably watch the testimony about Rich. As I close, let me just share with you this. Rich was transformed by the

grace of God this week because one year ago a man heard a vision from God. And said, I'm willing to do some things that probably some people around me are not going to understand that's going to cost me a lot of money, time, and energy.

But it's a vision from God. That vision is deliverance bus. You hear Mike testify about it. He testified about the other day, menorize. He says he was praying a year ago and God spoke this vision into him. He's like, Lord, you want me to get like a school bus for men? Yup. And how many towns is this supposed to go in? All of them? And Mike took steps of obedient kingdom vision and something that was out of the box, a little strange, a little different. Now, I want you to hear the intermediate story between what Pastor Anthony shared, the picture you see here.

Deliverance bus two months ago was driving in Colorado, was driving in Colorado. And an Amish man from Pennsylvania was in Colorado on a hunting trip. And he saw deliverance bus. And it peaked this Amish man's curiosity. And so he looked it up, made contact, and made plans to attend Florida, menorize. Yes, truth is strange in the fiction. Now, as you know about the Amish community, since they don't do the driving, they hire drivers. And Chris, the Amish man's driver, was rich.

The man who's gone through two divorces, through his own sin, has lost relationship with his daughter. Broken for three years has been drinking. He invites his driver to come to Menorize Florida place he's never been. And he found out about by seeing a bus in Colorado, drive by, and it peaked his interests. And rich testifies there at Menorize as he seeks God. Rich testifies that his detox deliverance started when he got on deliverance bus 18 hours earlier. Sure enough, on the way down first day of Menorize, rich has got the shakes.

Because when you go with alcohol after you've been addicted to it for three years, you get the shakes. I watched as rich was sweating profusely as his body's trying to adjust from not getting to alcohol. His body is

screaming that it needs, but I also watched as rich was touched by the Holy Spirit of that altar, shining with hope and deliverance by the grace of God. Where did that start? Well, I actually, it started way, way, way back with Jesus. But how did it happen? It happened because a man was willing to step out of comfort zone and what people might think of him and be obedient to a heavenly vision that God was putting on his heart to do something that others may or may not understand.

It was going to cost him significant risk that has created uncomfortability over the past year. But if you ask him, Mike, I'm telling you, there is hardly anybody more blessed at Menorize than Mike Clyde. Mike weeps like a baby. You know why? Because he's been involved in kingdom risk over the last year, pouring himself with all of his heart, individuals that will bring lost people to Jesus. Church? God is calling us to live for the kingdom. Please, please don't think because God's not calling you to buy a bus for men.

God doesn't have some kind of out of your comfort zone kingdom calling for you. Oh, he does. And as we tarry before him, he'll whisper into our hearts, son or daughter. I want you to be busy about this because I died for the whole world and every one of them matters to me. Let's stand. Father, I come to you in Jesus' name. I ask in these days, God, thank you for the palaces that you've given to us. Where we're blessed beyond measure by all kinds of comfort. Oh, God, may we understand that you've called us actually to live for the kingdom.

May we understand that we are called to the kingdom for such a time as this. May we not just be blessed by stories. I am blessed. We are blessed. But God, may we be through you riding miraculous storylines because, Lord, you are vitally interesting that your kingdom go forward. Lord, I pray that you'd birth fresh visions through the Holy Spirit in the hearts of this people for Jesus' sake. And everyone said, Amen. Go with God. You're dismissed. Men, be your best to be here at five o'clock this evening for prayer and preparation. Thank you.

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