

The Lord's Day

“Such A Day As This”

Esther 4:1-17

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Scripture: Esther 4:1-17

Text: Esther 4:4

Introduction:

1. Setting out of which text comes
 - a. Israel chosen people
 - b. Israel had been carried captive
 1. Were scattered over Persian empire and ruled over by Ahasuerus
 - c. Haman especially hated them
 1. Mordecai would not bow down and worship
 - d. Haman persuaded Ahasuerus to issue order that all Jews should be put to death
 - e. Serious time
 1. God's promises
 2. Could all be broken down
 - f. Mordecai especially concerned
 1. Seems none others very agitated about matter
 - g. He went to Queen Esther
 1. Providence had placed her in place of opportunity and responsibility

- I. Esther wanted to remain silent
 1. Was expedient thing for her to do
 - a. vs. 11 might be killed for going to king
 - b. Might lose position because was known she was a Jew
 - c. Times when expediency would dictate silence
 1. But responsibility demands action
 2. Cannot be passive
 2. What Mordecai said to Esther
 - a. God will send deliverance
 1. God believed promises of God
 2. He would use His power
 3. A deliverer would surely come
 - b. God can get along without us
 1. He will not allow His cause to fail
 2. He can raise up others
 3. What Mordecai said
 - a. Come to kingdom for such a time as this
 1. Providence so directed
 - b. Leave Esther for just a moment

II. Condition of world today

1. These are grave days
 - a. Dark clouds everywhere
 1. Korea
 2. China
 3. Indo-China
 4. Western Europe
 - b. Many have lost hope
 1. Dr. Broyles telling of 12,000,000 refugees in Germany
 2. Hungry and naked
 3. World attacked by communism
 4. Even statesmen have lost hope
 - c. Do not know where to turn
 - d. See no solution
2. But there seems to be one organizational institution that can solve the world's problems
 - a. Church
 - b. A light in darkness
 - c. A guide in maze of uncertainty
3. World faces grave conditions
 - a. Presents Church with greatest opportunity
 - b. But gives great responsibility

III. How Church can meet this opportunity and fulfill its responsibility

1. Look again at Esther
2. She must act or there would be failure
 - a. She had to do it now
 1. Then took all the haste of the government to make time element
 - b. They kept telling us that it is late
 - c. We have let opportunities slip past us
 1. Have had dire results
 - d. Now the time has come when we must act
 - e. There is no time for delay
3. She had to take heroic measure
 - a. Risk being killed or at least being rejected as king
 - b. The Church must take heroic measures
 1. Cannot think everything as usual
 2. Cannot act in that way
 - c. Esther had to put her own life in the balance
 1. "If I perish, I perish"
4. The Church must become aggressive
 - a. In program at home
 1. Great need
 2. Great urban areas
 3. Churches
 - b. Abroad

1. U.S. must spend to meet military emergencies
 2. We recognize this
 3. Mission boards face grave emergency
 4. Japan
 5. Korea
 6. Africa
- c. Church must do several things
1. Furnish for greater amounts of money
 2. Furnish more manpower – young people
 3. Must as individuals make influence count
 4. Must pray to undergird the whole program

Conclusion:

1. The Church today has most important task in the world.
2. We just recognize this fact and act accordingly.
 - a. Many lesser things will have to take secondary place in our life.
 1. Children taught now
 2. See importance of Christ and His teaching