

BORN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

• week 3



Exercise: Everybody stand up & I want you to move seats just swap & go to another seat.
How did it make you feel?

- **Exciting** - I wonder what God is going to do out of this move - meet someone new,
- **Agitated** - man I have to pick up all my stuff - what an inconvenience,
- **Angry** - how dare he do this, I was comfortable, my seat is nice & warm, the surroundings are great, my view of the stage is clear, sound is just right, I'm around people I like - it was all good but & now everything's wrong! Seat is uncomfortable & cold, the view is not good, the sound is awful, I don't know who this person is beside me now, it's all just feels wrong!
- **Refused** to move,

Those are very real emotions that take place when the stability of our world is threatened. It's exactly what happens when God asks us to do something out of our comfort zone to extend his kingdom on this earth.

What did Ps Tim say when we started our journey?

1. We are not here to prepare people for heaven - that is the Holy Spirit's Role,
2. We are here to invade this earth with the Kingdom of heaven,

We are to bring the culture of heaven, & the culture of the Kingdom to earth. We are being saved to display & bring the nature, character & purpose of Jesus to the world around us!

Eg - News Paper - do you read it prayerfully to see what the social needs are? Do you then ask the Holy Spirit to give you answers to address those issues?

I do everyday - and the two most pressing things that keep coming up at this present time are what?

1. Homelessness
2. Unemployment
3. Prisoner Rehabilitation - **Eg** Barry

What if I told you I believe the church collectively could solve both of those if we were to simply partner with the Holy Spirit to lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ!

The question is not whether we can because the power of God working through us can accomplish anything - the question is whether we would be willing to cooperate with God to see it done?

Could we embrace the kind of discomfort, pain & stretching required that goes with the territory of tackling such kingdom ventures? Our mission through CCCLiVE.TV is to put Christ & his values back into every fibre of society. We want to be the integral kingdom culture that permeates all the other culture shaping agents in society. Our Mission Magazine - is a balanced approach to starting to achieve this mission. We aim to ENGAGE

Families

- Business & Government
- Media & Arts
- Education
- Sports

We will bring the culture of heaven to earth!

What does the Lord require of us Church - To Act Justly, to love kindness & mercy, to walk humbly with our God
Micah 6:8 " Anita so wonderfully opened this up for us last week.

- The only thing it takes for evil to remain & have victory is for good people, Kingdom people to do & say nothing!

Sin is not just doing wrong, it's also failing to do what is right - *James 4 in our devotions this week says - to him who knows the right that should be done but fails to do it that is SIN.. its choosing to walk around the one who is beaten up on the side of the road of life rather than facing the uncomfortableness of engaging to help. That's SIN!*

To Engage is always uncomfortable & sometimes darn right dangerous!



Intro: Esther's Journey - *Est 4: 7 - fill you in on background leading up to this. Esther is a Jewish girl who whom God has positioned for such a time as this. She was helped by her uncle Mordecai to get into of King Xerxes harem. It was an incredible privilege to be chosen to part of the king's harem & only the best of the best were chosen, that had to be perfect & without blemish and of course virgins. Over time because of her beauty both inward & outward she ended up becoming Queen & all the time she kept a secret from the king and that is she was a Jewish girl. All is going wonderfully well - nothing could be better!*
Suddenly a evil dude called Haman gets jealous & angry with Mordecai because he will not bow to him choosing rather to obey God rather than man. Haman convinces the king that there is a *certain people throughout the land who are rebelling against his authority & that he should issue and edict to annihilate them, the king trusting Haman did not ask the right question and the issue was given to annihilate the Jews...* (& you thought Hitler was the first one to come up with this concept - history always repeat itself because it is motivated by forces unseen) *Mordecai finds out about it & immediately starts walking around in sackcloth and ashes & as sign of mourning & looking to God for intervention Queen Esther notices & the dialogue begins,*

Let's read now from *Est 4: 5 -17*

And you felt uncomfortable about your change of circumstances! Queen Esther has it all & she understands that in order to see this situation turned around she is going to have to risk it all for the people.

Friends, our Society faces major issues- Homelessness, Unemployment, Prisoner rehabilitation are but a few off many. I believe God wants to use us, he wants to stretch us, like Esther he wants us to stand up & make a difference in the times which we live. Esther was born for such a times as this, we are born for such a time as this. God through us wants us to reach out & love the unlovely, he wants us to bring the Kingdom of heaven to earth by bringing the nature, character & purpose of Jesus to the world around us.

God wants us to be a courageous and self sacrificing people, ones who willingly lay down their lives for others. I'm not asking you to do anything our family hasn't done our entire lives. We have always had a place for people to come stay & allow God to rebuild their lives. Anne & I in 21years of marriage have only had 6months on our own after marriage before God turned our home into a haven for others to come & begin a journey of discovery & then restoration with their God! It's not hard you just have to care!

Friends if we are to achieve this years mission - we will need to be people who are comfortable with discomfort, we will need to be ones who love the unlovely, ones who are not cultural Christians on Sundays alone but ones who are the hands & feet of Christ 24/7

What will it take for us to PRAY, GIVE, GO & be effective in saving the world around us- let' learn from Esther

1. Face the truth

- Even if it's hard to hear,
- Esther had to hear the truth, if you don't do this God will raise up someone else to do it & you & your family will perish missing out on the blessing.
- If we refuse to engage God will still work it out, he will just by pass us over and use others who have willing hearts & we will perish settling instead for gossip, slander & backbiting as we turning on each other instead of engaging in the mission. Discipleship has to have both an inlet & an outlet to be true discipleship!

2. Face the Fear

- Accept consequences, even if it means death I will approach the king,
- Esther had to accept that in order to pull this off it may indeed cost her life. But the risk was worth it for the benefit to the whole community.
- Accept that to really engage in something significant for God it will cost. Just accept it some of the ones you open your house to will lie, cheat & even steal now & then. They will come in sin stained smoking, drinking & swearing.... that is how to lost sheep come home! God doesn't first run them through car washes of the way to you:) **EG** - our family - Anne & I personally have had ones who lied, cheated & on a few occasions even cleaned us out of a few possession as they bolted, but that is OK it is just material stuff, we would still do it over again for kingdom purposes & the reward of what God does in us in our walk with Him is priceless... **EG RE** - Molly - do it for yourself - God changes you in these kind of circumstances.



3. Fast & Pray to prepare for the step of faith.

- Esther prepared her heart to meet the king looking for supernatural intervention,
- When you get yourself into these kinds of position in faith - it is amazing just how much easier it is to pray:) and how much more fervent your Prayers become as we come boldly before the throne of grace for supernatural answers!

4. Face the King and stand up for the injustice.

- Esther risked it all for her people & community. Injustice was taking place & someone needed to stand up & be counted, remember what *James 4 says it is not just sin when you do something wrong, it is also sin when you fail to do what is right!*
- We just need to learn to appeal to authority in an appropriate respectful way, **EG** Face book, Social Media Birthing Ward Hospital

God wants to start something big through us on the Gold Coast that will eventually spread across our Nation & then away from the shores of this land!

What does the Lord require of us church? To Act Justly, To love kindness & mercy, to walk humbly with our God.
Micah 6:8

As we do that what will take place? We will bring the culture of heaven to earth. For we are called to invade the local community with the nature, character & purpose of Jesus to the world around us

We will only do it if we;

- 1. Face the Truth**
- 2. Face the Fear**
- 3. Fast & Pray to prepare for the step of faith & supernatural intervention.**
- 4. Face the King and stand up for the injustice.**

Our world is hurting & we have the answers so why wouldn't we PRAY, GIVE & GO.

Let's not forget in *MT 25:31 -48 why a bunch of people are to be denied entry into heaven - and its not because of gross sin, it was because they never got involved with the pain & heartache of society. They never took seriously Jesus' command:*

- Feed those who are hungry,
- Give drink to those who are thirsty,
- Invited in a Stranger into their home,
- Clothed those who are Naked,
- Look after those who are Sick,
- Visited those in prison, **Eg** Greg

This are the things that will send some people to eternal punishment in hell while the righteous who perform such deeds will be welcomed into heaven with shouts of joy! I guess Jesus meant it when he said to be truly great you need to learn to be servant of ALL!

I believe we are a chosen generation, a called generation, the only question is whether we will have the courage to step fully into that call?

Could it be like Esther we have been born for such a time as this?

Church, could it be that God wants to display his power through us to bring kingdom solutions to complex social issues? I believe if we are prepared to open our hearts and homes, to put our faith into action to help people rebuild their lives then that is exactly what we will see our God do!

EG A Pastor once asked this very good question for all pastors to consider - if your church doors shut tomorrow what impact would it have on the community? A Really good question - and if answered honestly most churches could close their doors & nobody would even realize they are gone, because nobody ever realized they were there in the first place. Zero Impact! That is going to become a reality with CCCLIVE.TV over the next few years. We will become so integrated into the fabric of our communities bringing such positive input & effectiveness for Christ & the community, that if we even hinted at closing our doors the community itself would fight to keep our doors open for they will understand clearly that the community is being blessed of God because of us.