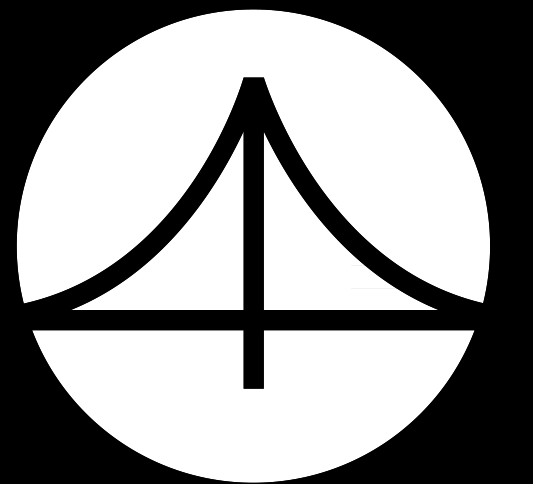


# Loving the City: Serving from the Palace

Esther 4



No matter how you got to the palace, God has you there for a purpose.

- Esther's Story
- Path to the Palace
- Opportunities of the Palace
- The Danger of the Palace
- Letting Go of the Palace

# Esther's Story

- Despite all her compromises, Esther becomes queen
- Esther's compromises let her rise to a position where she didn't need to be troubled by the things that bother everyone else

# Path to the Palace

- Satan wants you to believe your past failures define you and mean you can't serve God
- God uses Esther in incredible and powerful ways despite the path she took to the palace

# Opportunities of the Palace

- No matter the size of your sphere of influence or how you gained it, God has given it to you so you can serve and bless others through it
- Because God is in control, He works so you have exactly the sphere of influence you need to do exactly the role God has called you to at exactly the right time

# Opportunities of the Palace

- Key questions:
  - Who are the poor or disadvantaged people who need the connections and talents I have?
  - What is the injustice or corruption inside my circles of influence that needs attention?
  - Where am I powerless to change things, but able to help people with power see what's happening?

# The Danger of the Palace

- If you can't let go of the palace in order to serve others, then the palace is a prison for you
- In real time, there's no way of knowing the end results that will come from our risks and sacrifices - it requires faith
- When the palace is our prison, there's nothing we won't do to keep our place there

**“Absolutely every genocide researcher and even genocide victim — to a person — agrees that it is the average, ordinary member of a population that commits genocide.”**

*—Dr. Clay Jones*



# Letting Go of the Palace

- Turning point for Esther: realizing she was connected to the people in need and she couldn't escape their fate
- Seeing the sacrifice of Jesus for us sets us free to love and serve others sacrificially

**“When you see how much you are loved, your work will become far less selfish. Suddenly all the other things in your work life—your influence, your resume, and the benefits they bring you—become just things. You can risk them, spend them, and even lose them. You are free.”**

*–Timothy Keller*