NOTES FOR LESSON ON ESTHER 4:14

Sunday Morning, June 30, 1968
Auditorium class Glasgow, Kentucky

ESTHER 4:14

"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?"

WHAT MORDECAI THOUGHT

1. He had confidence that deliverance would arise. That deliverance would come by some means.
2. He must have thought that Esther would be the most likely means of deliverance.
3. It could be that Divine providence has raised you up for this very work.

LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THIS VERSE. Four in number;

1. That we may fail in our duty by simply being silent.
   1. We often bite our tongues because we have sinned in speech, but how often have we sinned by our silence.
   2. Man must answer for his silence as well as for his words.
   3. Man must answer for his thoughts as well as for his action.
   4. Man must answer for his motives as well as for his deeds.
   5. Consider the silence to which Esther was tempted:
      1. It was the silence of selfishness.
         1. Her people were imperrilled, but she was happy and free.
         2. We dread to speak out lest our ease and enjoyment should suffer thereby.
         3. Nothing is meaner than to be silent in the presence of wrong for the sake of selfish comfort. This silence means that people are "buried in self-love." What a tomb!
      2. It was the silence of expediency.
         1. Many have substitued expediency for honesty. This is their philosophy of life: What is expedient, not what is honest and best.
         2. It is astonishing how many Christians can preserve a prudential silence when all evil demands denunciation.
      3. It was silence of slothfulness.
         1. To speak for the deliverance of the Jews would involve strenous endeavour. She feared to rample on her present ease.
         2. To serve the needy, the young or the aged, is to forgo ease. "Be not slothful in business."

2. If we fail God will get his work done in some other way.
   1. "Then shall relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place."
      1. Some how God's great work of deliverance is going to be done.
      2. Though you may fail, the work of God is not going to come to a grinding halt because of your failure.
   2. One portion of the church, some members, may fail to rise to the height of its duty, but not the whole church.
      1. It may be necessary for God to go back on the "other side of the railroad" and gather from among the very people that we abandoned to the ravages of denominationalism, a people to firmly establish and maintain his great work.
      2. We are not to waste our time sighing and wishing for the "church as it was" nor settle down and become satisfied with the "church as it is" but we are to work and speak out to build and maintain the "church as it ought to be,": THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

3. We shall suffer for our failure. "Thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed."
   1. We cannot save our lives without at length losing them: they are "destroyed" who leave their duty undone. Matt. 16:25, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."
4. Every opportunity is a special call. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" In a moment Esther saw 3 things:
   1. She saw the drift of the past. 2. The meaning of the present. 3. The vastness of the opportund
      1. LIFE IS AN OPPORTUNITY: To live physically; Intellectually; Spiritually.
      2. The Christian life is an opportunity: TWO ASPECTS: Offensivelly - Defensivelly.

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(NOTES ON ESTHER)

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FOUR REASON WHY ESTHER WAS SUCCESSFUL

1. She was a young woman of natural courage.
   1. It was contray to the law of her day to go to the king without an invitation.
   2. She did what she thought was her duty in spite of her fears. If she failed she knew that death would be the penalty. THIS WAS COURAGE AT ITS BEST.
      Her words, "if I perish, I perish," Were not born of fear.

2. Her natural courage was strengthened and undergirded by her faith.
   1. She had faith in her people and in the God of her people.
   2. She asked that they fast with her. See Esther 4:16
      1. "Fast ye (pray) for me," was her request.
      2. They were join together in fasting (praying) that her mission before the king fail not.
      3. Paul never wrote but one letter, and that was to the backslidden church at Galatia, without asking for the prayers of his converts. PRAY FOR ME?
         1. Paul believed that their prayers could undergird him with strength and anoint his lips with grace and power. PRAY FOR ME?

3. She was made stronger by knowledge of the high sense of her mission.
   1. "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" 4:14
   2. If your situation is hard, if your path bristles with difficulties, if the load to be carried is heavy:
      1. That may be thery reason you are there.
      2. It may be that you are there under such difficulties and hard circumstances because you are the very one that God can rely on.
      3. It just may be God's way of testing you.

4. Esther was nerved for her task by a sane view of the facts.
   1. She did not make her venture in the conviction that all God's plans and purposes would fail if she failed.
   2. She knew that God is not dependent for the ongoing of his Kingdom on any one personality.
      1. She heard the words of Mordecai when he said, "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time...then deliverance will come from another place." 4:14
      2. God needs you, he needs me, he needs all of us. But if we fail him, if we turn our backs upon him and become his enemies instead of his friends, we shall not thereby defeat God or destroy his Church or destroy his world.
      3. Esther knew as we should know, that turning our back on God is but to destroy ourselves; that such failure on our part would be fatal to us. God will march on to the accomplishment of his purpose without us. He would like for us to go with him however.

FAITH - PRAYER - GOD not mentioned in the book of Esther.

PROVERBS 3:27; "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the pwer of thine hand to do it."

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