

## Series: The Exile & God's Restoration

Sunday, October 5.

### 1. THE R..... OF SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION

(Esther 3:1-11; See also Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8)

- Pride and spiritual opposition can have devastating consequences, as seen in Haman's actions. We are called to recognize the ways that pride and spiritual forces operate in the world, and to honor God above all else in our lives.
- Where might pride be lurking in my life? Where necessary confess the sin of pride to God and turn back to Him.

### 2. THE R..... OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(Esther 4:9-14; See also Proverbs 29:25)

- God's sovereignty does not cancel our responsibility, and He calls us to act courageously, as Mordecai urged Esther to do, "for such a time as this." We are called to step into the tasks God places before us, even when it is risky or uncomfortable, remembering that silence in the face of evil is complicity.
- What is God calling me to do right now that requires courage and faith?

### 3. THE R..... OF PRAYER AND FASTING

(Esther 4:15-16)

- Prayer and fasting demonstrate dependence on God and invite His power, as Esther's three-day fast shows. We are called to commit to prayer and fasting in the face of challenges, trusting God's guidance and deliverance before we take action.
- How can I make prayer and fasting a lifeline to God in the areas of my life where I feel powerless?

**This Week's Application:** This week, prayerfully identify any situation(s) where God may be calling you to act courageously or speak out for His purposes. Commit this to prayer and, possibly fasting, as a way of seeking His guidance and strength. Trust that God works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things, and step forward with confidence, knowing He is with you.

**Prayer:** "Lord, thank You for calling us to be faithful in times of challenge. Help us to act courageously, to rely solely on You, and to honor You above all else. May we step forward, trusting that You are with us and that Your purposes will prevail. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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