**“The Power of a Decision”**

Going deeper in Esther 4:12-16

**INTRODUCTION –** Esther, a Jewish girl, has been chosen to be the queen of the Persian King Xerxes. Mordecai, Esther’s adopted father, discovers a plot to kill him and all the Jews in Persia. Mordecai sends word to Esther about the plot and asks her to step in and intercede with King Xerxes. Esther sends word back to Mordecai telling him that no one can come into the king’s presence without being invited. If they do, they will be killed. The only exception is if the king extends his golden scepter toward that person. Then that person can live. She also shares that she has not been invited into the king’s presence in 30 days.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

12 When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent this message back to her: “Don’t think that because you live in the king’s house you alone of all Jews will escape. 14 If you keep staying silent at this time, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from another place, but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows though? Maybe you have come to become queen for just such a time as this.” 15 Then Esther sent back her answer to Mordecai: 16 “Go and get all the Jews together who are in Susa. Fast for me. I and my maids will fast with you. If you do this I will go to the king, even though it is forbidden, and if I die, I die.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What stands out to you about Mordecai’s response to Esther?

2. What are the options for Queen Esther in this story? What are the costs for her?

3. What is Esther’s decision?

4. Why do you think she asked for everyone to fast? What is typically involved in fasting?

5. “If you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.” How does that apply here?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Praise God for His sovereign work in the world and in your life.

\*Ask Him by the power of the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to opportunities around you.

\*Ask Him to empower you to be part of His solution.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord has designed you for “such a time as this.” In Him you have exactly what it will take to be part of His solution. Will you decide to look for what He is doing and courageously act on it this week?