



Coffeeville First Baptist Church By Craig Baker, Pastor

Throughout the Bible we are told of many people who God placed in certain situations and locations for a reason, for defining moments in their lives; moments when they often had to make a choice of whether or not they would be obedient to God or go their own way. Some were big decisions with little doubt that they would be life changing such as God commanding Noah to build the Ark, Moses confronting Pharaoh, Joshua marching around Jerich, David facing Goliath, or Jonah being asked to preach repentance to the Assyrians. Others decisions probably seemed insignificant at the time such as the boy giving his two small fish and 5 small loaves of bread to Jesus, the Samaritan woman talking with Jesus at the well, or Zacchaeus allowing Jesus to stay at his home. These moments are the legacy of these people; defining moments in their lives that they are remembered for. As we consider Esther 4, we learn of a defining moment in Esther's life.

tion, Haman gets the king to decree that in a few months on a certain day all the people throughout the kingdom were to take up arms and kill all the Jews.

Hearing of the king's decree, Mordecai is no doubt frantic and overwhelmed by dread. As a Jew, he had done the right thing by not bowing to Haman the Amalekite and was prepared to face whatever the consequences were for his disobedience. However, he likely never imagined the consequences would be the annihilation of his people. In despair, Mordecai tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth, throws ashes on his head, and goes to the wall of the palace where he is wailing and crying in sorrow and agony (Esther 4:1-3).

We do not know how many days Mordecai came to the wall wailing and crying hoping to get Queen Esther's attention, but when she heard that Mordecai was in sackcloth and ashes making a scene at the wall, no doubt Esther was confused. A short time ago, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate acting as an official for the king, now he is making a fool of himself wailing outside the palace walls. Esther first sent servants to dress Mordecai appropriately for a man of his position and get him to act accordingly, but Mordecai refused. She then sent a trusted servant, Hathach, to find out what was going on with Mordecai. Hathach returns bringing Esther a copy of the king's decree concerning the killing of the Jews and instructions from Mordecai for her to go to the king and intervene on behalf of her people (Esther 4:4-9).

Mordecai is very clear about what Esther needs to do. Esther is to just go talk with the king about the whole situation. Surely, the king will listen to his queen and stop the massacre. The problem was one did not just simply go see the king. Historians tell us that the king was

always guarded by heavily armed soldiers, and it was understood and practiced that if anyone approached the king or got too close to him at any time uninvited, they were killed, no questions asked. It did not matter who you were or what your reasoning was. Not even the queen was given an exception. However, if the king wished for the person's life to be spared, he would hold out his golden scepter, which was an elaborate golden staff, to signal the guards to back down and let that person approach. Esther sent a messenger to explain all this to Mordecai. Mordecai responded, "Yet, who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther, "Could it be that this very moment is the reason you were chosen to be queen?" Esther had a huge decision to make. Put yourself in her place for a moment. No one knows you are a Jew. If you do not say anything, you are safe and will remain queen. You can keep all the wealth, servants, and lifestyle that come with the crown, but if you go to the king to intervene for your people, you may be killed. Even if the king does not have you killed and listens to you, your secret will be out, and everyone will know you are a Jew, so you will still be killed with all the other Jews. We do not know if Esther's decision and response to Mordecai was immediate, but I believe that Esther likely took some time to consider her options and what was the right thing to do. She certainly understood the possible consequences of her decision, so what did she do? Esther sent word to Mordecai that she would go to king saying, "... and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:10-17).

Esther realized that her life had a purpose. She was not put in the position of queen to simply enjoy the royal life. Her life was meant for such a time as this. As I said in the beginning, we all have a purpose that is often revealed in defining moments; things we do and decisions we make that forever impact our lives and the lives of those around us. The challenge Esther received in verse 14 is the same challenge that God has for us in our lives. "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" God has placed you where you are for a reason, to fulfill His purpose. You may wonder, "How (Cont'd on page 9)

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Office Closure
Memorial Day
May 25th
Crews will remain on-call over the holiday weekend.

250 Power Drive, Batesville, MS 38606 (662) 563-2075

First Books For First Readers



Friends of Coffeeville Library gave all CES first graders new Pete the Cat books on Tuesday, May 12. Through their First Books for First Readers initiative, the Friends provide books for first graders every year to encourage a love of books and reading.



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

We the members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 21967 HWY 7 South, Coffeeville, Ms, cordially invite you to our Cemetery Beautification Day/Cookout May 23, 2026 following will be our Memorial/Homecoming program on May 24, 2026, at 2:30 P.M.

Your presence will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you soon. God Bless!
Thank You
Pastor T.K. Townsend
Program Committee
Cassandra Jackson
Ann Kee
Kathleen Covington
Otto Covington
Guy Baddley

Friends of Union Cemetery

Thank you for your past kindness and generosity to make the cemetery an attractive resting place for our loved ones.

We are having a work day on May 23, at 8:00 AM. Please bring what you need to work with. We will need chainsaws because a large tree has fallen on the fence. We need to get it removed and then we will have to see if the fence can be repaired or if it will have to be replaced. Among the things we will need to do are pick up trash, old and spent flowers and arrangements, put ant poison on the ant hills, and weed eat in places. Thank you again for your help. Hope to see you on Saturday, May 23, at 8:00 AM.

Persimmon Hill M.B. Church

Persimmon Hill M.B. Church would like to invite you to our annual Vacation Bible School June 15-19 at 7:00 nightly. The theme is Hooked, Reeled In To Serve God. The adult instructor will be Pastor George Forrest of Rocky Mountain M.B. Church of Water Valley. We are looking forward to seeing your church family and everyone is invited to attend.

Thanking you in advance, Persimmon Hill M.B. Church
Pastor Andrew Fluker
Secretary Sis. Gwen Herron

Philadelphia M.B. Church

We the Philadelphia M.B. Church cordially invites you to our annual Memorial Day program on Sunday, May 24th at 2:00 P.M. Our guest speaker will be Pastor Warren Johnson of the Morse Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church.

Please join us for this occasion. Thanking you in advance. Pastor Columbus Bell

