

MESSAGE NOTES

AUGUST 9 2020



RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

When Evil Seems to Prosper

Roger Ellis, Lead Pastor

Esther 3 & 4, p.345

We live in a time of great political turmoil and unrest. In our frustration, we love to blame others for it (a political party, a "king" or a "queen," a nation, a people, an individual...). Certainly we live in a time when evil seems to prosper, much like the time of Esther.

1. When evil seems to prosper:

- a. *An incredibly good deed goes unrewarded (Esther 2:21-22).*
- b. *An evil person is promoted to second in command (Esther 3:1).*
- c. *Revenge and ego drive the agenda (Esther 3:1-6).*
- d. *Rulers are easily manipulated (Esther 3:8-11).*
- e. *Those in power "do as they please" (Esther 3:11).*
- f. *Evil laws are passed (Esther 3:12-14 & 1:19).*
- g. *Rulers are smug and the people are confused (Esther 3:15).*
- h. *The righteous tend to remain silent, hopeless and powerless (Esther 4:3, 11, 14).*

2. Where is God?

- a. *He already has His agents in position (Esther 4:8-14).*
- b. *He has set the clock (Esther 4:14, 3:7-12).*
- c. *He is exposing His people (Esther 3:4-9, 7:1-6).*
- d. *He is asking His people to risk it all (Esther 4:11-16).*
- e. *He is driving His people to prayer (Esther 4:3, 16).*
- f. *He is working out His plan (Esther 4:14).*

THE ONE THING: *God has placed you here, for such a time as this!*

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Esther 4:14.
- Once again, read the story of Esther.
- Fast and pray once this week.
- Go public for Jesus through believer's baptism on August 30.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY OR GROUP DISCUSSION

Check-In: Since we last met, how did your "I will..." and sharing go?

1. What are you thankful for? What challenge or stress are you facing? How can we help? Do you know anyone who needs help at this time?
2. Read Esther 3:8-11 & 4:10-17 together (at least twice), and take turns retelling it in your own words as if sharing with a friend who isn't here.
3. What stands out to you and why? What do these verses tell us about God? What do these verses tell us about humanity/about us?
4. If this is God speaking, how will you apply it to your life?
(Aim for a specific: "I will..." next step.)
5. Who will you share with before we meet again?
*(Name a specific person you want to **share with**.)*

If you'd like to learn more about the discovery group process, connect with marcus@oakwoodnow.org



OAKWOOD ONLINE BULLETIN

AUGUST 9

SUNDAY

SUNDAY SERVICE

8:30 AM ONLINE WELCOME

9:30 AM ONLINE & ON-SITE SERVICES BEGIN

- ▶ For those worshipping on-site, offering boxes are located at the lower outside entrance and the lower level lobby. If you're worshipping at home, check out the [MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO OAKWOOD](#) including online and text giving.
- ▶ Subscribe to the Oakwood [YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#). Find our interactive worship service each Sunday morning.

CONNECTION CARD

- ▶ **Guests, we're so glad you're participating with us!** We'd love to connect with you and answer your questions! Click on the button above to get started.
- ▶ We ask all participants to stay connected and submit prayer requests through the [CONNECTION CARD!](#)
- ▶ Scroll to page 2 to follow along with the **Message Notes**.
- ▶ Scroll to page 3-4 for this week's **worship music lyrics**.

CHILDREN

▶ [SERMON-BASED KIDS BULLETIN](#)

Bring your own crayons or markers!

STAY CONNECTED DURING THE WEEK

OUTDOOR FAMILY SUNDAYS

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST | 9:30 AM

August is a month of Family Sundays at Oakwood, allowing us to worship together as one united *family-of-families* and to be refreshed to begin a new ministry year in September. Click [HERE](#) for more details. Our Online Worship Experience will continue on [YOUTUBE](#). Join us for an outdoor family worship experience! Bring chairs or a blanket.

STUDENTS

OPEN MIC NIGHT

AUGUST 19 | 6:30-8 PM | OAKWOOD CHURCH

For incoming 6th-12th graders. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

HIGH SCHOOL

BACKYARD BASH | AUGUST 12 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

LOW HOME, DELAFIELD

For incoming 9th-12th graders. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

EXPLOIT NO MORE ROOM SPONSORSHIP

Donate an item for a room at the Freedom House in Milwaukee. A variety of items of different costs are needed! [MORE INFO](#).

MEN

MIGHTY MEN OF GOD (IN TRAINING)

MONDAY-FRIDAY 5:30 & 6:30 AM

AND SATURDAY 7 AM

[MEETING ON-SITE WITH AN ONLINE OPTION]

Mighty Men of God are going chapter-by-chapter through the New Testament. Click [HERE](#) for details.

GUESTS

NEWCOMERS' RECEPTION | AUGUST 30

DIRECTLY AFTER OUTDOOR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

New to Oakwood? We'd love to meet you! Stop by our table for a free gift. Questions: Email [SARAH HAYDEN](#).

MISSIONS

BUD & NANCY

WORLD MINISTRIES

Pray for Bud and Nancy as their ministry continues to meet emergency needs for those without food and basic medical supplies due to COVID lockdowns in both countries where they serve. Pray also for their trained leaders there who are in grave danger from Communist terrorists.

END-OF-SUMMER CELEBRATION

AUGUST 30 | 9:30 AM

Join us for a special Outdoor Family Sunday. We'll celebrate Believer's Baptisms, partake in the Lord's Supper together and have fellowship over food after the message. More details to come, so watch your inbox and social media! Connect with us [HERE](#) if you're interested in displaying your faith in Jesus through [BELIEVER'S BAPTISM](#).

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathies and prayers for:

Robert & Sarah Duwe and family in the loss of Sarah's grandma.

#GODATWORK

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oakwoodnow.org

