

# COURAGE

## THE BOOK OF ESTHER



### **The Courage of Change** March 27, 2022

**Speaker:** Pastor Heather Zempel

**Scripture:** Esther

#### **Sermon Overview**

Esther leveraged her power, position, and privilege to serve others. Xerxes released control in order to reverse the narrative. Both required a special kind of courage. A courage that makes decisions based on values, convictions, and opportunities instead of fear, insecurity, and avoidance.

#### **Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What does being courageous look like in your everyday life?
2. What verse(s) give you courage to stand in the Word?

#### **Sermon Specific Questions:**

1. Courageous people lead others to be bold– who in your life has displayed courage that encourages you to be courageous?
2. Esther leveraged her power, position, and privilege to help her people flourish. Think of the access, permission, or position you have in your life. How can you leverage that for the collective flourishing of the people around you?
3. When we release control in our lives to God, we can reverse the narrative. What areas of your life do you want to have control over, but realize you are powerless and need God's power?

4. What area in your life do you need to ask the Lord for greater levels of wisdom and a revival of courage?

### **Digging Deeper:**

- Historical Study– Do a deep dive on the Persian Empire. What do you know about the Persian Empire? Who was King Xerxes?
- Read the book of Esther in one sitting. Identify the plot twists, the supernatural synchronicities, etc. Where do you see the Lord working through the plot twists and divine coincidences in your life?
- Write questions in your Bible. Use other resources to further gain understanding of the historical context. Cross reference the book of Esther with other places in Scripture.

### **Practical Application:**

- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Commit to a weekly fast Sundown Wednesday - Sundown Thursday, throughout Lent. You can find fasting resources at [ncc.re/fast](http://ncc.re/fast).
- Join our Main Upper Zoom online prayer group on Wednesdays and our new Upper Zoom Prayer Pods on other days. Main Upper Zoom: Wednesday mornings, 7:14am ET [ncc.re/upperzoom](http://ncc.re/upperzoom). Upper Zoom Prayer Pods meet at different times and days during the week. Go to [ncc.re/prayerpods](http://ncc.re/prayerpods) to sign up.