



June 21	Esther 1, 2, 3	Acts 5:1-16
June 22	Esther 4, 5, 6	Acts 5:17-42
June 23	Esther 7, 8, 9, 10	Acts 6
June 24	Job 1, 2, 3	Acts 7:1-19
June 25	Job 4, 5, 6	Acts 7:20-43
June 26	Job 7, 8, 9	Acts 7:44-60
June 27	Job 10, 11, 12	Acts 8:1-25

**Esther Acts for Her People [Acts 4]**

What was the gist of Esther’s response to Mordecai’s First request?

- “I’m scared”
- “the timing isn’t right.”
- “Do I have to?”
- “I can’t.”

What was Mordecai saying in his reply?

- “God will be with you”
- “God will use you”
- “This is why you are where you are”
- “You are in danger as well”
- “Don’t pass up this opportunity”

What is the moral of this story?

- Everything will turn out all right in the end
- One Person can make all the difference in the world
- What goes around comes around.
- Whatever will be will be
- Prayer Changes things
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you generally respond to a crisis?

- with paralyzing fear
- with bold action
- with worry / anxiety
- with humble prayer
- with stretching faith
- other inaction and confusion

**Faith** makes things possible  
**Love** makes things easy

**Who’s in Your Boat?**

▶ Your **Purpose** dictates who’s in the boat

- Power** – people you want to control
- Prestige**– people you want to impress
- Property**– things that bring you security
- Purpose** – people who make you a better person

“Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” Matt 20:28

▶ Your **destination** determines your focus

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me Ph 3:14

**Without a destination there can be no hope, no courage, no joy**

[BTW - The harbor is not a destination.]

▶ Without **Jesus** in our boat, we’re sunk!

“In him was life, and that life was the light of men.” John 1:4

**What should I do if my boat is being swamped?**

**Accept** “apart me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

**Ask** “I can do all things THROUGH CHRIST who strengthens me.” Ph 4:13

**Awe** They were amazed, “What kind of man is this?” Mt 8:27

This is God's Word for my life in this place and at this time. Today, I am a new creation in Christ, I am God's very own, and I believe He has a purpose for my life.

### **Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)**

#### *Jesus Calms the Storm*

<sup>23</sup>Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup>Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup>The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

<sup>26</sup>He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

<sup>27</sup>The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

### **PRAYER FOR FATHERS**

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Loving and Merciful God, whose power is beyond our imagination and whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, We turn to you in faith, confident in the knowledge that you know our every thought, feeling and every unspoken need of our heart.

Our hearts and prayers are lifted today in thanksgiving for what you have already given to us through our fathers. We give thanks, to you our Heavenly Father, for these good men who sustain, support, and encourage us in our living, and who love us and care for us through the years. By their lives and their example, they have become your representatives on earth! What a blessing they are to all who know them, are loved by them, and learn from them! To these great men who guide us in the faith, we say thank you.

We also give thanks to you, O God, for all those whose gift for fatherhood is so strong that they have allowed their caring to spill over into the lives of others, providing the guidance and stability, the nurture and the love needed by so many. We rejoice with you, O God, that these many fine men, who in spite of confusing roles in a rapidly changing society have taken their rightful place as supportive fathers with open hearts, with willingness and joy.

But we also mourn with those whose fathers have been recently lost, may they find comfort in their grief, hope in their despair, and courage in the love that their fathers have already given them. May we take time today to remember with gratitude all they have already given to us through the years, that by their sacrifice we might learn the full meaning of love and loving.

And so, Almighty Father, we join with you in celebrating life and the gift of our fathers. May we as your church, commit to sharing our fathers with all those who have felt abandoned and alone. Hear our prayers this day, Father of us all, and give to us such a firm foundation that your love may spill forth from us into the lives of others, just as our fathers have done for us. Amen.