

“Walking with Destiny”

(Luke 14:6)

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Worth Imitating..pt.2
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I. Introduction

A. Call from Melody H.

1. Her son....20 years without parole
2. Cop killers
3. Partner....4 life sentences
4. Her other son....youth pastor

B. Our need to prepare the next generation of leaders

1. One generation can break the chain
2. Example is the single greatest teacher for preparing our kids
 - a. They will imitate you
3. The big question....are we worth imitating?
4. I Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)

(1) Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ

C. The failed leadership of a group called the Pharisees

1. Last week we saw how Jesus confronted them in Luke 14
 - a. *“And they had nothing to say” (v. 6)*
 - b. They were supposed to be the “guardians of the faith”
2. They were just imitating the generation that went before them
3. The Pharisees started out as a good group (saw last week)

- a. But somewhere along the line, the chain was broken
- b. They focused on “Religion” instead of “God”

D. God uses all kinds of circumstances to prepare you

- 1. Winston Churchill’s struggles and failures
 - a. He finally rose to leadership at age 66

“I felt I was walking with destiny and all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial” (Winston Churchill, May 10, 1940)

- b. Preparing you for right now
 - c. For this hour and for this trial
- 2. Do you have a “sense of destiny?”
 - a. Preparation can be painful
 - b. The destiny can be painful
- 3. You live your destiny today...For this hour and for this trial
 - a. ...not yesterday or tomorrow

E. Next week “Worth Imitating...*Testing your Humility*”

- 1. But as we prepare for communion...let’s meet “The Trophy Wife”

II. The story of Esther

A. Background

- 1. When Iran ruled the world for 200 years
 - a. The Persian Empire.....Iran
 - b. From 539 to 331 BC
 - 1. Cyrus
 - 2. Darius

- 3. Xerxes
- 4. Artaxerxes
- c. Stretched from India to Africa
- d. Came to power when they conquered Babylon (Daniel)
 - 1. We know them as Iraq
 - 2. Finally fell to Alexander the Great of Greece
- 2. The book of Esther written during the rule of King Ahasuerus
 - a. Xerxes in Greek
 - b. Ruled between 486 and 465 BC
- 3. Satan's attempts to eliminate the Jews
 - a. To eliminate the line of Christ
 - b. The original "Holocaust"
 - c. Instead of Hitler...He used Haman

(Haman = Hitler)

- 1. An Amalekite (Agagite)
- 2. Tribal hatred of the Jew's
- 3. His plot to kill the Jews
- d. Tricked the King into signing a murderous order
 - 1. To kill all the Jews in one day....13th of Adar
 - 2. To be kept a secret until then
- e. Would have been the original "Holocaust"
- 4. Enter Esther and her older cousin Mordecai
 - a. There were among the Jews living in the capital of Persia

- b. Esther...from the harem to the Queen
 - 1. Xerxes first wife...
 - 2. Esther became his *“Trophy Wife”*
 - c. Nobody, including King Xerxes, knew she was a Jew
5. Now Mordecai hears of Haman’s plan to kill all the Jews
- a. Haman tricked the King into signing the death order
 - 1. Said the Jews were plotting a rebellion
 - b. The slaughter of all the Jews would take place in 11 months
 - 1. Would all take place in one day
 - c. Was to remain a carefully guarded secret
6. Mordecai attempted to get Esther to intervene
- a. Mordecai secretly sent word to her, urging her to tell the king that she was a Jew...and to plead for mercy for her people.
 - b. But Esther was paralyzed with fear.
 - c. She sent word back to her cousin that he could not possibly expect her to risk her position, status, and perhaps even her life by interceding on behalf of the Jewish people.
7. Mordecai’s response
- a. Esther 4:13-14

*(13) ...Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. (14) For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. **And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?***

- b. She stepped up to stop the plot

B. God has placed us right here... “For such a time as this”

- 1. I was deeply moved when I stumbled across that passage

2. I spoke on it as we moved into this building five years ago
3. I passionately believe that God has placed us here *“for such a time as this!”*
4. I believe that this is an exceptional church...on an exceptional mission
5. Talking with leaders from struggling churches....

C. What I’ve always wanted in a church...

#1.....*A church where the people are authentic*

- a. No phonies please
- b. The truth about the people of Chapel Pointe
 1. Jim Green’s comment regarding choosing us
 2. *“Couldn’t God have done better?”*
- c. Authenticity demands broken leaders
 1. The leadership of Chapel Pointe had already been broken
 2. If we fail...we will fail attempting great things
- d. Authenticity demands servant leaders
 1. A shepherd....not a CEO
 - a. This is not a business or a country club
 - b. This is the Church...the Bride of Jesus Christ
 - c. Where the pastor has been called by God to deliver a message from him
 2. Where the pastor has the heart of a shepherd
 - a. Who treats each sheep as precious
 - b. Willing to carry the hurting sheep on his shoulders
- e. Where authenticity is more important than professionalism
 1. Stopping to let a kid pee

f. Authenticity can't coexist with arrogance

1. My disdain for arrogant churches
2. Humbled that God chose to use me to deliver his message

a. I Corinthians 9:16

(16) Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

#2....A church that's in a hurry

a. Esther 4:14

(4) For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish.

- b. I don't want the blessing to go elsewhere....I want it here
- c. Why I left the school.....and why I chose Chapel Pointe
 1. I wanted the greatest return on my investment of time
 2. No other church with greater potential
- d. I preach each sermon as if it will be my last
 1. The only time I'll ever get to share Christ with a lost sinner
 2. Visitors who may never again hear
 3. Christ may return
 4. I must deliver the message accurately
 5. I'll have to answer to God for every sermon I preach
- e. When God blesses a church, the people better trust him and move fast
 1. Churches that have "lost the blessing"
 2. Right direction....wrong speed

#3....A church with secure roots...and a really big vision

- a. A church that is rooted in its core values
- b. A church that focuses on what's really important
- c. A church with a huge vision for our community

1. Why I chose Chapel Pointe?

- a. It had the most vision and potential

2. Across all denominational lines

#4....A church that cares more about people than programs or buildings

- a. This isn't about buildings
 1. Plenty of churches with nicer buildings
- b. The heart of the church is relationships
 1. Getting people into small group settings

#5.....A church where the Bible is preached without apology or compromise

- a. My call to deliver a message from God
 1. I Corinthians 9:16

(16) Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

2. Luke 4:32

(32) They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

3. I Corinthians 2:4

(4) My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.

4. Concerned about what God thought of my sermon
 - b. To share the truth...the whole truth...and nothing but the truth
 - c. I want Chapel Pointe to have the reputation as a church:

1. Where the Bible is taught with:
 - a. Authority
 - b. Excellence
 - c. Passion
2. Where what we believe really matters
3. Where the Bible is accepted as the inspired word of God
- d. Where our children learn the word

1. II Timothy 3:15-17

(15)...and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, (17) so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#6.....A church where people experience the wonder of worship

- a. John 4:23

(23)Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks

- b. A church where the worship is so vibrant that it causes the angels to shout hallelujah
- c. Where the people are participants...and not spectators
- d. All of the worship is directed at God out of love
- e. Where the worship literally bubbles out of people

#7.....A church committed to preparing the next generation of leaders

- a. Former kids from California...now in ministry
 1. Damian and Jenny
- b. II Timothy 2:2

(2) And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others

- c. Where future leaders are being chiseled into shape

#8.....A church with a passion for reaching the lost

- a. The final instructions in Matthew 28:19-20

(19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

- b. Where you feel comfortable bringing your unsaved friends with you
- c. They will witness authentic Christian worship and want what they see
- d. Ministries and missions

#9.....A church where the “unexplainable” happens

- a. Esther never would have seen God’s power had she not risked it all
 - 1. In God’s economy, it’s all about “faith” and “trust”
- b. Most churches are unwilling to take the big steps of faith
 - 1. And they never get to see the hand of God at work
 - 2. They only attempt what they can handle
- c. There is no way to play it safe in the Lord’s work
 - 1. Not if you want to “experience” God...and not just read about Him
- d. Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or even imagine