

How big is your world?

Let's recap

Babylon

Babylon took the Jews into Exile with the fall of Jerusalem
Their policy was one of removal as slaves into exile

Persia

Persia defeated Babylon in 539 BC and their policy was one of return.
Not as free men and women but as governed subjects
The return of the exiles took place over almost a hundred years
There were three returns from Babylon due to the Persian policy of freeing subjects

- Zerubbabel. 530 BC
- Ezra. 460 BC
- Nehemiah. 455 BC

The story of Esther plays out somewhere between 485 and 465 BC in the centre of the Persian kingdom

A national catastrophe is about to occur

Esther

We see the young Hadassah, seated in a very privileged position...seated in the heavenly realms...

Est 4:8 *Mordecai also gave him (Hathach...runner) a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favour and plead with him on behalf of her people.*

Est 4:9 *And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.*

Est 4:10 *Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say,*

Est 4:11 *“All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden sceptre so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.”*

- Her world was very real...but it was very small

- Her world spanned the four corners of the palace

Mordecai

We see the faith and courage of Mordecai. An old man who had been carried as a slave from Jerusalem...who had lived as an exile for nearly a hundred years

- Mordecai carried the whole nation in his heart
- His world spanned the thousands of kilometres that covered India, North Africa and southern Europe
- She saw her on head on the block; he saw hundreds of thousands of heads...including his own

Est 4:13 *Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.*

Est 4:14 *For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*

The privilege of proximity

When they told us we couldn't touch or meet I was so thrown. Everything about my way of communicating and connecting needed to touch, to kiss, to look into someones eyes

The way Jesus touched people has always been so meaningful to me

- The fact that Jesus touched the leper in Mark 1
- The fact that He touched the children in Mark 10

Mar 10:13 *And they were bringing children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.*

Mar 10:14 *But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God...*

Mar 10:16 *And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.*

- The fact that He let the bleeding woman touch Him in Mark 5

Mat 14:34 *When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.*

Mat 14:35 *And when the men of that place recognised Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to Him*

Mat 14:36 *and begged Him to let the sick just touch the edge of His cloak, and all who touched it were healed.*

For some of us 'proximity' is really important

For many of us church and community, leading and serving relied on proximity

- The day a little Mordecai was carried in to exile his proximity to his people changed. Yet for 80 years he carried a love and hope for the people of God
- The day his beautiful cousin was taken to the harem proximity changed

Est 2:11 *Every day he walked back and forth near the courtyard of the harem to find out how Esther was and what was happening to her.*

He couldn't see her but he knew how she was doing and he kept contact with her

He developed new ways

We drift to weakness not strength...strength requires intent and action

How will you touch your world?

I see Jesus in your eyes and it makes me love Him

I feel Jesus in your touch and I know He cares

I hear Jesus in your voice and I know He listens

And I trust you with my love because you are His

And I see Him in you

Who is your world?

Joh 17:6 *"I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word.*

How is your world?

- Know how they are doing

Jer 33:13 *In the towns of the hill country, of the western foothills and of the Negev, in the territory of Benjamin, in the villages around Jerusalem and in the towns of Judah, flocks will again pass under the hand of the one who counts them,' says the LORD.*

- Pray for them

- Communicate with them...not just by forwarding what's app messages