

BEHIND THE SCENES // Week 2

INTRO // Hey Welcome to Faith Students! Tell the person next to you, you belong here.

HEART OF SERIES // Have you ever had a hard time believing in something that you can't physically see? For example, maybe it's something that takes place in the future that you don't know how it will play out or maybe a promise of some sort that someone gave you that you don't one hundred percent trust. Our default answer in these situations are usually "I will believe it when I see it". In the same way, it can be hard to trust in a God that you can't physically see. Even harder to see what He is doing? It can sometimes leave us asking the tough moments of life, where is God? How is he moving? But that's the catch, we serve a God who often works behind the scenes to work all things together for good. Through this series, we will be walking through moments in the bible, when God works behind the scenes, works things together for good, and what we can take away from it.

ILLUSTRATION // Think of a time where you experienced awkward silence (serious or funny...probably more funny lol)

TENSION // We have all experienced moments of awkward silence. We are unsure if we should do or say anything! It is uncomfortable and something no one really seeks out. Many times in life we can go through spiritual 'silence', where we feel we are doing all the right things, yet God is not speaking. Today we will be answering the question: How do I serve God even when He is silent?

SCRIPTURE:

ESTHER 4:7-17

7 Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. **8** Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. **9** So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

10 Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: **11** "All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days." **12** So Hathach[a] gave Esther's message to Mordecai.

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. **14** If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: **16** "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." **17** So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. *paraphrase if needed....13-17 is the main passage*

MAIN POINT: Just because the Voice of God is not clear, that does not mean the Hand of God is not Evident.

Emphasis 1 // Remain Chosen

- Vs. 14: who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?
- You were specifically created for this time in your life.
- Where you are and who you are is not by coincidence, but God has purpose for you now!

Application //

- Remain living a chosen lifestyle!
- In every moment, conversation, interaction, etc. live like you are chosen because you are!

Emphasis 2 // Remain Confident

- Esther was confident that even though she had not heard God speak, that he was still listening
- 1 John 5:14: And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.
- Did you know that Esther is the only book of the Bible where the name of God, nor the spoken word of God is even mentioned? Not one time!
- Through the story we see the hand of God moving all the pieces behind the scenes according to his perfect timing.

Application //

- Just because God is not speaking, does not mean that he is not there.
- Esther understood that while God was not revealing himself tangibly, he was still revealing himself as a LOUD God!
- God did not speak, but his actions spoke louder than words.
- Are we so bent on hearing God's voice that we are missing his Hand?
 - EXPLANATION: sometimes we get so focused on an answer, that we miss God walking us through the problem solving.

ILLUSTRATION: think of a time when you asked your math teacher for help on a math equation...she walks you through the whole problem, but in the back of your mind you are tuned out asking when the heck she is going to tell you the answer! Lol

- Sometimes we can treat God like our math teacher, just wanting an answer.
- If we just get the answer, we will never understand how to solve the problem.
- If Esther would have just gotten the answer that her story would end ok, God would have never been able to equip her with courage and boldness.

Challenge //

- Trust the process!
- What questions or problems are you experiencing in your life that you are looking for the answer, but God is teaching you how to 'problem solve.'

Emphasis 3 // Remain Obedient

- Because of Esther's obedience, the Jews were saved
- Because the Jewish race was saved, it opened the door for the Messiah to come
- Esther could have died, yet she was obedient to the Lord and trusted his word

Application //

- What things in your life have been labeled as worthless by other people? Maybe there are talents, dreams, and callings God has hidden in your heart that other people see and ride off.
- God wants to restore those giftings and callings in your heart, but you must be obedient to what he has told you to do.

Altars with Action:

- Maybe segway altar call with a personal time in your life where you felt God was silent, but looking back on his faithfulness to provide you see he was there the whole time
- Salvation and/or Recommitment to the Lord
- Call that can involve everyone.