



Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah Sermon Series  
Session 1: Deliverance Is Needed  
Potential Sermon Title: Acting Decisively  
Passage: Esther 3:1-9

## Connection to Esther 1:1—3:15

God gave Queen Esther a unique opportunity to stand for Him at a particular time and place. Esther acted decisively and saved God's people from death. Today, God also gives His people opportunities to stand for Him.

### Introduction/Openning

In 1517, Martin Luther, a German theology professor, posted his Ninety-five Theses on a door of the Castle church at Wittenberg and started the Reformation movement in Europe. Over a five-year period prior to 1517, Luther became convicted that God justifies a person on the basis of faith and not by works; every believer has direct access to God apart from human intermediaries; and the Bible is the supreme source of authority for faith and life. God then led him to take a public stand for the truth. Though Luther suffered in many ways for his beliefs and actions, he held to the doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone and started a new day in the life of the Christian church. Luther dared to act decisively in the place God had put him.

### Outline

1. Trust God through life's ups and downs. (Esther 2:7, 17)
  - a. Believers committed to God's will can trust Him for help.  
See also Esther 3:5-6.
2. Recognize your role in God's work. (Esther 4:13-17)
  - a. Look for your role in God's work.  
What is your "such a time as this"?
3. Seize the moment. (Esther 7:1-3)
  - a. God will help His people seize opportunities to serve Him.  
What's the difference between an opportunity and a God-given opportunity?
4. Celebrate God's intervention and mercy. (Esther 8:11-13, 16)
  - a. Christians should acknowledge and make known God's work in their lives.  
How do you respond when God works in your life?

### Conclusion

Even before Martin Luther's day, Esther recognized and acted on her God-given opportunity to save the Israelites from death. The Book of Esther is her story. How have you recognized God-given opportunities in your life and seized the moment when God called you to action?