

## The Family Practice | Week 04 | Family Gathering Talk Notes

### The Godfather Problem | April 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

#### What is the issue anyway?

We all have experienced moments where we feel \_\_\_\_\_.

1. When have you ever felt unsafe, unprotected or threatened?

#### The Godfather Problem

When we feel unprotected, \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs quickly become reckless behavior.

*1 Corinthians 13:11*

*"When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things."*

1. What are some ways that people think of God like a mafia boss rather than love? How could this affect our concept of God as protector?

#### Esther, Mordecai and Purim

*Esther 2::21-23*

<sup>21</sup> One day as Mordecai was on duty at the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthana<sup>21</sup> and Teresh—who were guards at the door of the king's private quarters—became angry at King Xerxes and plotted to assassinate him. <sup>22</sup> But Mordecai heard about the plot and gave the information to Queen Esther. She then told the king about it and gave Mordecai credit for the report. <sup>23</sup> When an investigation was made and Mordecai's story was found to be true, the two men were impaled on a sharpened pole. This was all recorded in The Book of the History of King Xerxes' Reign.

Mordecai protected the king through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Esther.

*Esther 4:1-3*

When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. <sup>2</sup> He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. <sup>3</sup> And as news of the king's decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes.

Mordecai and the Jews felt unsafe and \_\_\_\_\_

*Esther 4:4-6*

<sup>4</sup> When Queen Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. <sup>5</sup> Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning. <sup>6</sup> So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate.

Esther's wealth and privilege \_\_\_\_\_ her from her own suffering.

*Esther 4:7-9*

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message.

Mordecai put his \_\_\_\_\_ in Esther again.

Esther 4:10-14

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 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?"

Mordecai protected Esther with the \_\_\_\_\_.

Esther 4:15-16

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."

Esther chose to protect her people and not her \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Point:

Family \_\_\_\_\_ recklessly to protect their people, not their position, trusting God with the outcomes.

### What about my every day, normal life?

Practice protecting your family this week through acts of \_\_\_\_\_.

Solidarity requires \_\_\_\_\_, not understanding, another's suffering.

Celebrate a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ this Tuesday Night!

### So what, why does it even matter if I live into this?

Accepting our responsibility to protect one another creates \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ families.

### What is God inviting you into today?

1. Celebrate a Purim of Hope this Tuesday night (or any night this week).
2. Read the story of Esther out loud with your Family.
3. Put your faith in a family member by trusting your suffering with them.

