

Sermon Starter – A Voice for Others

Esther 2-7, 9:24-32

Who needs a voice in your community? Are there those with power who speak for justice (for example, music groups like Black-Eyed Peas and Bono)? Hear testimonies from someone in your congregation, or highlight ways your congregation corporately has been there “for such a time as this.”

The adult issue that this story addresses is genocide. Sarejevo, Rwanda, Serbia’s attempt to wipe out Croatian and Muslim populations, apartheid in South Africa, the atrocities in Darfur, Sudan, and the Holocaust are a few examples of modern genocide. Consider the following statement by Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, as he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize: “I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides... Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant.” (See *Connect* p.111 for the complete quote.)

Don’t miss this opportunity to challenge your congregation to speak up for those who have no voice. This passage is a wonderful example of how God works through humans to bring about justice.

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