

## Daily Devotional, November 3, 2020 For Such a Time as This

***“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14 (NIV)***

For the past nearly eight months, I have asked myself the same question over and over again, perhaps more than I have ever asked this question at any time in my life: what is the Lord up to in all this? I know and believe that he is in this, working for our good, and that He will use the world’s current events to bring honor and glory to His name despite the fear and uncertainty. I have faith that God will use all this to bring more people to know Him. But how? When? And how do I fit into that picture? If I believe that God is my King, and that His only son is the Savior of my life, if I profess to honor Him and say words like, “Here I am, Send me,” what does that mean? It is easy to say when I am sitting in the safety of my church. It is far more difficult to live out when I go out the doors into the world in the state it is in today.

Any quick trip down any social media site or 30 minutes of watching the news right now will bring far more questions than answers. Everything is so highly electrified. It seems like every direction you turn, something or someone is under attack. What does that mean for us as Christians? Why do we exist at this time and place, and what are we called to do?

Clearly, there is work to be done. The job looks overwhelming. We want to fight the good fight for the injustices, for those who cannot fight for themselves, for those being wronged, persecuted and forgotten. But how? How does my small single voice bring about the change that the world needs to experience? I am only one person.

*Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request.” Esther 7:3 (NIV)*

Queen Esther sets an example of being brave and trusting God enough to protect us when we stand for what is right and good. Because she put her faith and trust in God, she was able to save her people. She shows us how to hold our tongues back when we need to and how to jump into the trenches when the time is right. And she shows us we do not have to do it alone. Our main focus in the church is connecting people to God and one another. When we do, we are better together.

It is easy at a time like this to view the world from your comfortable seat on the couch. Over the last eight months we have become very fond of that place. It can feel scary to rise up from there and step outside the front door at times. But Esther teaches us that we are called to be bold, to take risks, to stand in the gap together. When we face life or death decisions, the choices are easier when we have fellow believers to confide in, seek counsel from, and stand beside—at least in spirit. Standing shoulder to shoulder and arm in arm with our community, if only virtually, we can be ready when God gives us our “go ahead” moment. We can abandon our instincts to hide on our couch and be silent and hope someone else will fight the good fight for us. Instead, we can each use the unique position God has put us in, drawing strength from each other and being ready for such a time. Together we will be ready to say, “Here I am, *send me!*” Or, better yet, “Here we are, *send us!*”

This week, I encourage you to evaluate your place in the community of God. What call do you need to make or group do you need to engage with to be sure they are not alone? Take a bold first step and reach out! Take a chance on taking a few steps away from your comfy couch and get a broader perspective of God’s purpose and plan for your life! Where has he placed you, and what has he asked you to step into—to step up and do? Who could use some groceries or prescriptions, or other necessities delivered? Do not continue to live in the shadow of fear! Be bold and step into the light! Together, we might save a few lives. Together, we might save a nation!

***Prayer: Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself. Amen. (A prayer of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.)***