

This devotional reading is an outreach birthed from the reflections of my heart.

As He leads me.....turning dreams into reality, it is my “soul” purpose to provoke life change and promote healthy living (holy living); to be a visible display of God’s transforming power that is available to us all.

It is my desire to share the love of Jesus by encouraging, comforting, and inspiring those who, with determined purpose, want all that life has to offer them.

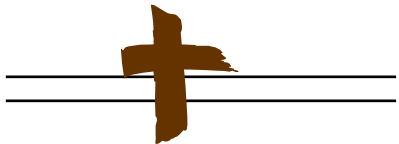
For more information concerning sharing in song, testimony, or an enlightening word of encouragement, please contact Val Bolinger.

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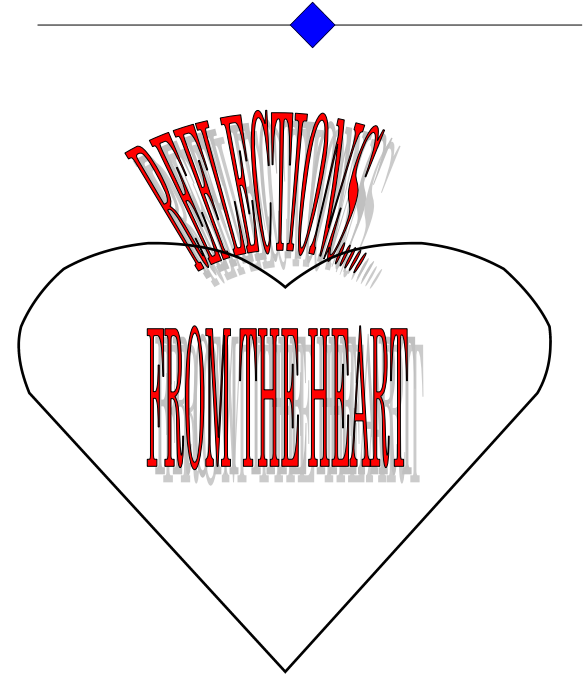
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SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A God-inspired word for your day

“...And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion?”

This statement parallels perfectly with **Psalms 37:23** “The steps of a (good) man are directed and established by the Lord....”

I believe the growth process of a Saint begins with salvation - accepting the Lord as our Saviour. As we grow in the Lord (i.e. learn to walk, talk, and take in the meat of the Word), there is yet another conversion. We must come to the realization that Jesus is not only our Saviour, but our Lord. As our Saviour, we **worship him** for what **He’s done**. As our Lord, we **serve him** for what **He’s done**.

I Corinthians 6:19& 20 very clearly states, “Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received (as a Gift) from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price (purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own). So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body.” Selah....(pause and calmly think of that)! In the context of the point I am trying to make, simply put, that scripture saysYou were given the Holy Spirit, who lives in you. You were bought with a great price. So honor God by allowing the Holy Spirit to operate **through you**.

As the Lord is ever so willing to take us in and make us his own, to rescue us and set us on the road to restoration, should we not also be willing to allow Him to do as He pleases through us? I feel the Lord is challenging me these days to come to Him as my Lord and not just as my Saviour. What does this mean? We’ll get to that.

In the Book of Esther we learn the story of a orphan girl who is raised by her uncle. She is chosen to be taken before the king. She finds ‘favor’ in the sight of those who see her. And, as the story is told, she becomes queen. I wonder if she felt like this was her ‘happily ever after’ from the hardship life had dealt her?????

However.....there is quite a twist in the story.

Everything is going great, then the queen is delivered a bit of a blow. She’s received a report that her uncle is at the king’s gate, making a scene. He’s tore his clothes, put on a burlap bag, has thrown ashes on himself and is crying and yelling the middle of the city. She may have felt her poor uncle has lost his mind, so she sends her attendant to take him some

robes and get him out of the there. We really have no idea what was going through her mind. Put yourself in her shoes. If it were me, I’d have felt a little panic, thinking.... ‘Oh my, what if people find out he’s my uncle? What if people find out I’m a Jew? What if the King doesn’t want me anymore? What if.....?’ In all honesty, there you have it. That would probably have my initial reaction. The ‘what about me’ symptoms would definitely have surfaced. (The truth hurts...ouch!) At first we see Esther trying to quickly cover and dismiss the situation. Uncle Mordecai then sends very informative message to Queen Esther ...**Esther 4:7** “And Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him.....**8** (Mordecai) also gave him a copy of the decree to destroy them...that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king, make supplication to him, and plead with him for the lives of her people.”

I find Esther’s second reaction understandable. Esther sends a message back to Mordecai saying,... **11**“All the kings’ servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any person, be it man or woman, who shall go into the inner court to the king without being called shall be put to death; there is but one law for him, except (him) to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. **BUT**, (Val’s emphasis added) **I have not been called to come to the king for these thirty day.**” (That “B” word may only be three letters long, but it makes a HUGE statement.) Fear had now gripped Queen Esther. She tried to reason her way out of this with Mordecai. To me, she was basically saying, I can’t go, I’ll die if I go because he hasn’t called for me. Mordecai gets a bit testy if I dare say so. The Queen gets a bit of a ‘reality check’ from Uncle Mordacity, by saying.....**13** “Then Modecai told them to return this answer to Esther, Do not flatter yourself that you shall escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. **14** For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance shall arise for the Jews from elsewhere, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion.”

Whew! That is some hard stuff! I’d say ole’ Uncle Mordecai let her have it.

I must stop and point out the beginning of verse 14. Mordecai spoke his faith in God to deliver by any

source God would choose. Mordecai knew that God was very able and willing to save them. But, just what if all of this had happened that Queen Esther could glorify God this way? Many times in our lives we receive promotion to find out that with that “a wide door of opportunity for effectual (service) has opened to me, and (there are) many adversaries” **I Corinthians 16:9** Or maybe we’re allowed to remain in humble situations for a while, that through the process another may be helped.

Esther faced the situation, stating, “I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.” **Esther 4:17**

Think about what she had to face. She was breaking the law and risking death. Why wouldn’t she tremble with fear. After all, the only reason Esther had the opportunity to become queen was because the last queen did not honor the king’s request. (That little scenario would have been resounding in my thought process). However, she chose her faith and her duty. There was another side to this. All throughout this story, the scriptures repeatedly told of the favor she had. I wonder if it helped her at all to look at the provision and favor God had done for her numerous times in days gone by. Did she look back and see how God had brought her to this place by His grace, and again He would bring her through this as well? We don’t really know. I personally think, she bowed to the cause of what was right. She set her mind to do what duty was calling for. And, an entire race was saved because of her efforts.

Recently, I had an experience while cleaning my church that adds to the point I’m trying to make. I was cleaning the church and noticed I had a different vacuum to use. I was excited thinking it was definitely be better as it was a new one. Well, to make a long story short, I fought two floor of that church with that vacuum, and....it won. I remember grumbling to myself (only after about 5 minutes of a 60 minute job).... ‘this is so hard. I don’t want to do this.’ I was thinking about how much longer it would take me and how much harder I would have to work to actually make it look like the floor was swept, and the Holy Spirit spoke to me. He said, “the tools you have to use aren’t always easy, sometimes they’re hard. Are you willing to use them anyway?” That has really weighed on my heart and mind.

*Are we open to our LORD when He comes calling?

*Are we open to the tools He wants us to use?

*Are we daily asking the Lord how can we serve you today?

*Are we willing to face fear, rejection, feelings of inadequacy, pain, taking a chance in spite of past failures...whatever it may be?

*Are we willing to look on past victories and place our faith in God's abilities and not ours to take us to the next level that His Name be glorified?

I just wonder if the day in which we live, with all the suffering, heartache, and confusion that is being spread so abundantly across this nation and earth, if there isn't a place His children are being beckoned to.....a place in the kingdom for such a time as this to lay ourselves down completely and allow Him to arise up in us to win the lost.

II Corinthians 10: “..the weapons of our warfare are not physical (weapons of flesh and blood) - of ourselves and our own resources - but they are mighty BEFORE GOD for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds.

The weapons God may have called you to choose may not be the ones you want to arm yourself with. They may feel to heavy. You may feel it's not your chosen lot to do it the way it seems to be turning out. I bet Esther felt a little of that too.

Remember, “...My strength and power made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in (your) weakness.” II Corinthians 12:9

Selah.....