

Verse of the Month Devotional

January

For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14 NKJV

Thoughts on the verse:

If we are to say that God is good and that He cannot fail us, we must believe that He has called us for such a time as this. Queen Esther was a born Jew in a city that hated her people. Her own parents were slaughtered as the Persian Empire took over and she was raised by her uncle / second cousin during the formative years of her life. She then was forced to live in the palace of the King so he could find a new queen. History states that once these girls were brought in to the king's palace, they were never allowed to leave or return home. They were to stay on as possessions, as concubines, on call for the king if he would ever remember to call for them again by name. What a difficult time that was in history. The thing I love most about Esther is that she did not stay in that place of doubt or depression or questioning her place in time in life. And thank God for her Uncle Mordecai who called her on her stuff, reminding her of the brass tacks truth that if she did not step up and do the thing she was called to do, God could (and would) surely use another to do the job, and she would lose her life anyways. His challenge brought her to her knees to seek God for her nation, and ultimately to the king where he granted her favor instead of death.

Prayer:

Father I ask you to help us remember that You do all things well and nothing by accident. I ask you to help us remember that you have a plan and a purpose for each one of our lives, and that we would own it and do the hard things, believing that we are called for such a time as this. Open our eyes to the world around us that needs deliverance and truth and healing. Cause us to fast and pray and ultimately live a life of obedience, doing the things you have called us to do. Help us to lay down our lives just as you did, remembering that you gave the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you for those around us who challenge us to do the right thing, even when it's hard. May we respond with humility and grace, and ultimately obedience, to change the world for your glory.

Action:

Take some time to reflect on the world around you and the hard things you see that need to be done. Ask yourself why you are not doing something about it. Dig deep to the "real" reasons, and walk yourself through the "why." Ask God to help you, and keep at it until you get to the place that you trust the Lord enough to start doing the thing, and be ready to fast and pray until you are ready to lay down your life. Ask others to pray with you. Hear what they are saying to you, even if it's hard.

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Notes: