

LESSON 9: ESTHER THE QUEEN

Biblical Passages: Esther 4:1–5:3

Every day, if you look hard enough, you can find a news story recounting a perfectly timed rescue. An off-duty EMT fishing at a lake was in the right place at the right time to save someone from drowning. A physician was eating dinner with his family when his skills saved a fellow restaurant patron who suffered a heart attack. California Highway Patrolman Sgt. Kevin Briggs has been the right person at the right place so many times that he has been named the “Guardian of Golden Gate” for talking over 200 people from jumping to their deaths from the Golden Gate Bridge (<http://people.com/human-interest/california-highway-patrol-officer-stops-suicides-on-the-golden-gate-bridge/>).

Read Esther 4:1–5:3. Through a series of events recounted in the earlier chapters of this book, Esther had become the wife of King Ahasuerus. As the events in this chapter reveal, Esther’s Uncle Mordecai has learned of Haman’s plot to kill all the Jews in Susa. When Mordecai revealed the plot to Esther and asked her to approach the king on behalf of the Jews, Esther initially explained the danger she would face by approaching her husband without his invitation. Mordecai’s compelling reply, “Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” drew her attention to how God might have ordained her presence in the king’s life specifically for this purpose. Placing her full faith in God, Esther directed Mordecai and all the Jews in Susa to pray for her for three days, after which time she would approach the king regardless of the consequences. The following chapters revealed that God had indeed placed Esther in the king’s household “for such a time as this.”

For most of us, life seems very ordinary. We wake up, go to school or work, come home to do homework or cook dinner and clean house, and then go to bed just to get up tomorrow to do the same thing. But each of us should be prepared to be the right person in the right place at the right time—a time when God invites us to do something only we can do. The question is, how will we respond to that invitation?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe your “ordinary” days? What kinds of opportunities to help others have unexpectedly occurred in those ordinary days?
2. How would you describe your willingness to get involved in the opportunities God places before you?
3. What impact might you have on other people’s lives if you join God in His work?
4. Conclude by praying that members of your family will look for the opportunities God provides to reach out to others.