

Message for May 13, 2018

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We are going to briefly look at the lives of women from the Bible who were used by the Lord in exceptional ways and then to focus specifically on just one woman from the Old Testament whose character is exemplary.

ELIZABETH... God demonstrates that nothing is impossible with Him. He transforms childlessness into fertility and brings life where there is none. God begins the process of restoring His people.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS... she showed a willing acceptance of God's will. She recognizes that God is about to do something marvelous. A humble teenage girl.

MARY AND MARTHA... close friends of Jesus and sisters to Lazarus. Mary and Martha teach us live life with a willingness to serve and a hunger for God's word.

MARY MAGDALENE... reveals a person who gives up everything to follow Jesus. When the disciples abandoned Jesus at the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene stayed along with the other women.

PRISCILLA, LYDIA, DORCAS AND PHOEBE... four women of the early church who faithfully fanned the flames of the early church.

ALL THE ANONYMOUS WOMEN... not mentioned by name but all had a life changing encounter with Jesus.

Rising to Meet Your Destiny

Esther 4:10-17 The Message (MSG)

⁹⁻¹¹ Hathach came back and told Esther everything Mordecai had said. Esther talked it over with Hathach and then sent him back to Mordecai with this message: "Everyone who works for the king here, and even the people out in the provinces, knows that there is a single fate for every man or woman who approaches the king without being invited: death. The one exception is if the king extends his gold scepter; then he or she may live. And it's been thirty days now since I've been invited to come to the king."

12-14 When Hathach told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai sent her this message: “Don’t think that just because you live in the king’s house you’re the one Jew who will get out of this alive. If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this.”

15-16 Esther sent back her answer to Mordecai: “Go and get all the Jews living in Susa together. Fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, either day or night. I and my maids will fast with you. If you will do this, I’ll go to the king, even though it’s forbidden. If I die, I die.”

17 Mordecai left and carried out Esther’s instructions.

Esther was not a mother, she was an Jewish orphan who was raised by her cousin, Mordecai. During that time many Jews still lived in Babylon under Persian rule.

There had just been a change in the royal court, Queen Vashti was deposed and Esther is chosen as the new Queen. But unknown to the king, Esther is a Jew.

We may not always know why God places us where He does, but it doesn’t mean He doesn’t have a plan.

Use your calling for God’s heavenly purposes that’s your purpose.

God is calling you with the backdrop of eternity.

In the Persian language Esther means Star: Her beauty, and grace and character all shone through. She was a shining star but not the red carpet variety.

(1) Esther believed that God had placed her on the throne, not because of her beauty but because He has a plan. (Esther had been placed in a specific place for a specific time.) This was no accident. (ladies, girls you are placed specifically for God’s purpose.)

(2) Esther had a respect for the power of prayer and fasting. She recognized the presence of God’s power in her life. (Here is Esther’s

answer to Mordecai: ¹⁵⁻¹⁶“Go and get all the Jews living in Susa together. Fast for me. Don’t eat or drink for three days, either day or night. (This woman is serious about pounding on the doors of heaven) I and my maids will fast with you. If you will do this, I’ll go to the king, even though it’s forbidden. Look at the weight she is putting on prayer.

(3) And lastly, Esther was willing to lay her own life down, that God’s will might be accomplished. (If I die, I die.) That didn’t mean she didn’t want to live, but she recognized the call God had on her life and God had a plan.

She exhibited courage under pressure. She realized her life had great purpose. Truly effective women move from their own short-sighted agendas to experience God’s eternal purpose.

When great adversity is met with courageous intercession, God comes through. He always does.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in the Book of Romans:

Romans 8:28 GOD’S WORD Translation (GW)

²⁸ We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to His plan.

Press in to God for the things He has for you, and give Him all the glory.

Devote yourself to the Lord so that when your faith is tested, you will be able to rise to the challenge and stand firm.

Recognize that things or other people will try to distract you. Hold fast.

Believe that God is working His perfect plan out in your life. But hold on to Him.

Remember who you are, (women of God) and to whom you belong.

AMEN