

DAY 03

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 1

"I do not pray for success; I ask for faithfulness." —Mother Teresa

"Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."" Esther 4:15-16

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Esther is a story of a beautiful young woman used by God to save a nation. God invites us to join Him in His rest and His work. God's timing is not always our timing and His ways are seldom obvious to us. Our inability to understand what God is doing often leads to our refusal to relinquish our lives completely to Him.

Haman, one of the king's highest-ranking officers designed a plan to have all of the Jews killed. When made aware of Haman's plot, Esther decided that she would go and make an appearance before the king, but only if she was supported by her people through prayer and fasting.

Esther carried a bold attitude toward her mission. She was determined to relinquish her life to God's plan no matter the cost. Jesus exhorted his followers to have this attitude of bold surrender to God's will. The Apostle Paul sums up these thoughts when he says, ""To live is Christ, and to die is gain."" (Philippians 1:21)

This story ends with Esther and her cousin Mordecai being honored while Haman and his evil plot were brought to an end. Esther wasn't lucky to win the beauty contest and become queen. Esther wasn't lucky to find favor with the king. God orchestrated all of these events for His glory. This was God's plan.

Let us not miss Christ's invitation to join Him in what He is orchestrating in our circumstances. We may not understand it but we are called to relinquish our lives in those moments. God powerfully rescues others when we courageously relinquish our lives to Him. God is faithful. May God help us to be faithful too.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Lord, make me a channel of your peace, that where there is hatred, I may bring love; where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness where there is discord, I may bring harmony; where there is error, I may bring truth; where there is doubt, I may bring faith; where there is despair, I may bring hope; where there are shadows, I may bring light; where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand than to be understood; to love than to be loved; For it is by forgetting self that one finds; it is by forgiving that one is forgiven; it is by dying that one awakens to eternal life." —St. Francis of Assisi

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Lord Jesus, forgive us for allowing ourselves to live in distraction from your Holy presence. We are all in desperate need of you. We ask you to flood our hearts with your presence, saturate our lives with your power, help us relinquish our will for yours as we come to know your heart. May those who are far from you in our region come to know your love as your Holy Spirit moves here. May we truly be your witnesses and accept your invitation to join you in your rest and in your work. May we see revival in our city and region and may revival begin today with me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

RELINQUISH



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