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It is so beautiful today! Who wants to be inside at the computer when the birds are singing, the sun is shining, and a soft gentle breeze is caressing cheeks! But alas, the work of the Lord must come first, and therefore I learn to delight in it! I learn to delight in the place where He has planted me.

I have received a lot of mail from people who question God's timing and God' working in their lives. I thought, for this month, I would give you an excerpt from my book, WALKING IN TRUST. It is the story of Esther. And the story of Providence runs through every line and every verse of that book!

Here it is-enjoy! And grow in the Lord.

Esther-A Story of Providence

"For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14

When Esther was chosen as Ahasuerus' queen, it is doubtful she was aware of the providential hand of God moving in the background. Little could she guess the role she had been chosen to play in the scheme of God's great things. Although God is not specifically mentioned in this book, He is the central Character, hiding in every scene, quietly and unobtrusively working through all the situations. He is behind every decision.

If you have ever been in a play, you know that every play has a director as well as actors. Without the director, the actors wouldn't know what to do. It would make for a very sloppy, ill-timed play without a director. The director plays a vital part in every drama, yet the audience never sees the director. All they see is the actors moving about the stage.

And so it is with life. God is the Director; without Him, it would be a very sloppy, ill-timed drama. Out of His will, it is always that way. God picks all the players and places them where He wants them. If He picks Jane for the role of Bill's mother, then Sue will not be able to usurp Jane in that role. Jane's part is safe. Others may try to hurt us but God is always there protecting us, looking out for our interests. If He places us in the role of Pastor, no one can permanently remove us from that position until God is ready for us to be removed. "No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper," and yet we are mostly blind to what God is doing. We struggle so hard trying to discover His will-when all along we are dead center in the middle of it. Haman might have been determined to wipe out the Jews, but God had something else altogether in mind. And God was the Director.

If God has placed you in a particular position-pastor, teacher, student, leader, follower, adult, child, whatever-then God has a purpose for you in that role. He has an assignment tailor-made just for you. Esther was handpicked by God to save her people. Now, as Mordecai

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points out in the above verse, she could willfully choose not to do God's will. But even if she did, God would still raise up someone else to carry it out. Our human whims and fancies do not thwart God's plans and purposes. But-knowing the end of the story-we realize what a blessing Esther would have lost! What a glory that she is one of only two women who have a book in God's Word named after her. What satisfaction Esther achieved, knowing she had been used by God in saving her people!

Our enemies, like Haman, may have the feeling of temporary victory. Haman exulted! He was king-for-a-day, as he described to his wife and friends his power and privilege with the king. Haman had had his reward.

Again, although God is not specifically mentioned, we can perceive Mordecai's trust in His God. In our key verse, 4:14, Mordecai responds to Esther's hesitancy to approach the king. He lets his niece know that if she doesn't do this thing, she and her father's house will be destroyed, but-God [implied] will bring deliverance from another place.

Mordecai also indicates his own trust in the providence of God. It must be growing clear to him by now, just why he had felt so led in the first place to submit Esther as a candidate for queen. Those famous words say it all: "...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

That question put forth by her uncle must have borne witness in Esther's spirit, for she sent word that she would go through with it. I can imagine a powerful anointing falling upon Esther as she committed to this work. A feeling of destiny must have covered her like a cloak.

God's Timing

"On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Abasuerus. 3 And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him." Esther 6:1,3

We see here such a wonderful example of God's incredible timing. First of all, Mordecai had been responsible for saving the king's life. Reason would dictate that he should have been rewarded at the time of the incident. But God does not work by man's pitiful reasoning abilities, and God had planned it differently. When Mordecai initially caused the king's life to be saved (2:21-23), we are not told why the king didn't honor Mordecai then. But we have the ending of the story in front of us, and can determine that Chapter three had to happen first. Many times in our own lives, we skip the third chapter. God planned to honor his servant Mordecai, but He obviously was saving it for a more critical time. Let this be a lesson to us. When we are not rewarded for our diligence as we feel we should be, we would do well to remember Mordecai. It is in God's timing-not ours. We must learn to wait on God.

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Isaiah 54: 15-17: "Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper."

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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