

LISTENER GUIDE

For Such a Time as This

by Nancy Leigh DeMoss (True Woman '08)

Text: The book of Esther

There are always two _____ going on at the same time.

- The visible one, the _____ drama.
- The unseen one, the _____ drama.
- The book of Esther is not really about Esther's success or her misfortune at all. The story is about God and His purposes. Esther, as with all of us, is just a player in God's heavenly drama.

**God has placed you in a place for His _____ right now.
(Est. 4:14)**

- He has purposes that are big and eternal. We don't, at this moment, know what those purposes are. That's why we have to trust that they are secure.
- In the kingdom of man, the question is, "How will the circumstance affect me? How will it fulfill my desires, my needs, my purposes?" In the kingdom of God, the question is, "How does God want to use my position, my season of life, my place in life to fulfill His kingdom purposes in this world?"
- You have been given a role to play, and no one else can fill it.

Lessons from the story of Esther about being true women of God today:

1. We are in a _____.
 - The real battle was not between Haman and Mordecai. They were just symbols of a conflict between two kingdoms—the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.
 - We're in a spiritual battle, and we need to keep our eyes on that reality.
2. The _____ and _____ of the human kingdom are entirely different than those of the heavenly kingdom.
 - The children of the kingdom of God win the war with humility, prayer, fasting, sackcloth and ashes—reliance on God.
 - The battle is fought and won in the spiritual realm with spiritual weapons and tactics.
3. God has a sovereign _____ plan, and His plan will not _____.
 - He has a plan—for your life, your family, His people, our world—to reveal the glory and the splendor of the saving grace of Jesus Christ and to fill the earth with His glory.

- Even when you cannot see His hand, even when it seems that nothing is happening, God is always behind the scenes at work fulfilling His purposes. He will prevail.
4. Through _____ and _____, you can be part of God's plan.
- You may feel helpless in your situation, outnumbered by ungodliness, overwhelmed by the powers of darkness and wickedness. But never underestimate the power of God or the significance and the potential impact of your faith and obedience.
 - No matter what age or season of life you are in, you can make a difference in God's kingdom. He has brought you into His kingdom for such a time as this. So be willing to step out in faith when it's time to speak or act.
5. There is no situation so _____ that God cannot _____ it.
- Wait for God to act. Wait on His time.
 - You don't win by pushing, nagging, screaming, yelling, badgering, manipulating, whining, or shaming. Those things may get you your way in the immediate sense, but they will not win the kingdom of God any victory.
 - We need to have gentleness and a meekness of spirit that is God's power under control.
6. Don't judge the _____ of the _____ by the way things look now.
- In the here and now the wicked often flourish and the godly often suffer. But remember that things are not as they always will be.
 - The wicked are riding high now, but one day there will be a final judgment. The righteous suffer now, but one day there will be the triumph of the kingdom of God (Ps. 58:11).
 - We haven't read the final chapter, but God has already written it.

God has brought you into this kingdom for such a time as this, and that means the willingness to go _____ the _____.

- We've got to be willing to be salmon, swimming upstream. What a picture that is of the heart of Christ, who swam upstream, bloodied and beaten, to give spiritual life, laying down His life to give us eternal life.
- We may die in the process, but if we die fulfilling the kingdom purposes and will of God for our lives, so be it. "If I perish, I perish" (Est. 4:16).

Will you say, "Yes, Lord. I am Your servant. Take me, use me, spend me. Fulfill all Your holy eternal purposes in and through my life, whatever the cost"?

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