

CRAZY ASKS #5 – Will You Go?

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THE BACK STORY

“After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king’s gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.”

ADVERSITY HAPPENS – *“After these events”*

ADVERSITY CREATES OPPORTUNITY FOR MATURITY

“Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.” James

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans

ADVERSITY DOES NOT CHANGE GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. **Colossians 1:16-17 MSG**

THE CRAZY ASK

“Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king’s eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate. Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king’s presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.” Esther

Sometimes you have to contradict the world’s rules in favor of God’s.

“All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.” Esther

WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR	VS.	WHAT YOU	TO HEAR
IT’S ABOUT YOURSELF	VS.	IT’S ABOUT	YOURSELF
THE TEMPORARY	VS.	THE	

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Matt. 16:25

REALITY CHECK

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" **Esther**

Mordecai's deep conviction: God WINS and HIS providence is in the **DETAILS** and in the lives of **INDIVIDUALS**

THE REST OF THE STORY

"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." **Esther**

IN the BIG ASK –



IN the BIG ASK –



IN the BIG ASK –



THE KEY?



⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" **Isaiah 6:8**

CHALLENGE

And who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?

DISCUSSION

How can you plan for adversity when you don't know when it's coming?

What does the maturing process feel like amidst adversity?

How do you prevent yourself from just thinking about YOU and what you want to hear?

What position have you been placed in "for such a time as this"?