

WEEK 6: RISKING IT ALL

Esther's Request to the King

Though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die. –
Esther 4:16

Read: Esther

Most of us can count on one hand the number of people or causes we would give our lives for: maybe a spouse or child, maybe a close friend, and *maybe* our faith. We hope and pray that we aren't ever put in a situation where we have to risk our well-being, let alone our lives, to take a stand for what we believe. We hear heroic stories of people who give their lives willingly for their faith, and we wonder if we could do the same if push came to shove.

Esther could have said no to Mordecai's request that she go to the king to ask him to save her people, the Jews. Anyone would have understood – to go to him without being invited was to risk her life. But Mordecai tells her, "Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" She summons up her courage, goes to the king, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Knowing we have a part to play in God's great plan for his kingdom can be daunting, but it is one way to gain the courage to do hard things. It can be difficult to stand up for what is right, especially when you know it might bring about negative or even hostile reactions from people. But if we are convinced that this is what God is calling us to do, and that he will be with us every step of the way, we can find the courage to move forward with what he is asking of us. Second Timothy 1:7 encourages us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." God gives us what we need to do what is right.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Have you ever had to take an unpopular or scary stand because of your faith? How did it feel? How did that experience strengthen your faith?
2. Think about a current struggle or obstacle you're facing. If you consider that God may have you there "for such a time as this," how does that impact how you see the situation?
3. What talents, abilities, knowledge, position, or tools has God prepared you with to be able to do what is right?