



Week 2

MILE MARKERS

Start

Welcome to group session 2 of Pathways.

**Imagine a trip you frequently take (from work to home, to the gym, etc.)
What's a mile marker that lets you know you've almost reached your destination?**

What's an example of a spiritual mile marker on your journey with God?

**Before we begin, read aloud Esther 3:1–4:8 together as a group.
The passage is summarized below.**

The incident in these chapters took place about five years after the installation of Queen Esther (see 2:16; 3:7). Haman is identified as an Agagite, perhaps a descendant of the Amalekite king Agag, who was defeated but spared by King Saul (see 1 Sam. 15). Israel and Amalek were enemies from the time of Moses (see Ex. 17:8-16).

Although other people bowed to Haman, Mordecai refused to worship him because of his Jewish faith, just as Daniel had declined to worship King Darius (see Dan. 6). Haman masterminded a plot to exterminate all of the Jews. The divinely appointed day and month were determined by casting lots. When Mordecai learned about the murderous plot, he and all of the Jews joined in mourning, fasting, and wearing sackcloth and ashes. Esther learned about the decree from her messenger, who relayed Mordecai's plea for her help.

Watch

Complete this viewer guide as you watch video session 2.

Mile markers are signs that God gives us along the way that His providence is steering us to His divine kingdom purpose and destination for our lives.

Mile marker 1: spiritual warfare

Spiritual warfare is where there is an attack by the evil one, through his surrogates, in order to keep God's kingdom from expanding and keep His promises from being fulfilled.

The Book of Esther is about a spiritual battle that seeks to thwart the kingdom of God and negate the promises of God.

God's purpose was a promise that He made to His people. His purpose is a promise that He makes to you and me.

In trials God wants to use you and what you're going through to further His kingdom.

Mile marker 2: opportunities

God has called us to represent Him on earth and to intersect for the kingdom of heaven against the onslaught of the kingdom of hell.

God wants you to be a channel of blessing. He doesn't want you to be a cul-de-sac; He wants you to be a conduit.

Mile marker 3: a faith risk

Faith involves acting like it is so even when it's not so in order that it might be so, simply because God said so.

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Discuss

Discuss the video with your group, using the following questions.

Look back through Esther 3:1–4:8. Where do we see the three mile markers spiritual warfare, opportunities, and a faith risk in this passage of Esther?

Dr. Evans taught that the first mile marker is spiritual warfare. Read Ephesians 6:12. What is spiritual warfare? When should we expect to encounter it?

Read Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus respond to spiritual warfare? What does His response teach us about the way we should prepare for and fight spiritual battles?

The second mile marker is taking advantage of our opportunities. Are you currently in a cul-de-sac or a conduit? How are you using the ways God has blessed you to serve others?

What opportunities exist for this group as a whole to use what God is doing in your lives? What ministry could you engage in or pursue together?

The third mile marker is a faith risk. Read Hebrews 11:1. When was the last time you took a step of faith?

In the video Dr. Evans said, “If all you see is what you see, you do not see all there is to be seen.” How does faith help us see beyond what’s right in front of us?

When Mordecai asked Esther to implore the king’s favor (see Esth. 4:8), he was asking her to take a substantial risk. Why should we seek to be faithful to God despite the risks?

How should we deal with the fear of the unknown that comes from taking a risk?

Read week 2 and complete the activities before the next group session.

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D. L. Moody wrote these words in his Bible beside Isaiah 6:8. They say, “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do.”¹

Studying Queen Esther or other biblical characters can sometimes cause us to stall rather than move forward in our lives. Why? Because these people often loom larger than life in our collective imaginations. We forget they were human and had to make daily choices that led to their great impact. Some of these choices were monumental, as when Esther entered the king’s chambers unannounced. Others were seemingly insignificant, as when she followed the eunuch’s advice on what to take with her when she saw the king for the first time. Whether large or small, choices combine to craft the entirety of a hero’s story.

Yet in our contemporary culture, which largely focuses on entertainment, movies, and competitions on a grand scale, we can sometimes lessen the value we place on everyday obedience to God in the smallest details. We want to be the hero. Save the day. Or even save the planet.

But reaching your destination—your destiny—on the pathway where God has placed you requires a step-by-step process. It demands faithfulness along the journey. It summons steadfastness even in times that may seem inconsequential or trivial. Heroes are heroes because they made wise choices, even when those choices seemed small. They were consistently obedient to God.

In this week’s lesson we’ll look at ways we can know we’re on the right path. These mile markers tell us we’re headed in the right direction and enable us to keep going even when nothing incredible seems to be taking place. The ever-influential D. L. Moody recognized his limitations in acknowledging that he could do only what he could do. But it was this level of wisdom that enabled him to do all that he, as one man, could do. History would prove that what he did was more than most.

Never belittle the solitary steps or the long, seemingly endless journey on the pathway to which God has called you. When you’re faithful in little, He will cause the little things to add up to be much in His kingdom.

1. D. L. Moody, GraceQuotes.com, accessed October 4, 2018, <https://gracequotes.com/category/dl-moody/>.

◉ **DAY 1** ◉

HITTING THE ROAD

Have you ever taken a road trip that seemed to stretch on forever? If you've ever driven in west Texas or someplace similar, it can seem that the same patch of road and terrain repeats itself again and again. Even though an hour or more has gone by, it may appear that you've gotten nowhere at all.

That's where mile markers come in. Mile markers tell you what point of the pathway you're on. Every highway or interstate in America provides these mile markers—small signs designating the particular mile where you are. They conveniently show you how far you've traveled and allow you to count down the distance to an upcoming exit.

Similarly, God has set mile markers in our lives as we travel the pathway to our destinies. If and when we learn how to identify them, we'll gain insight into how far we've come and how much farther we have to go.

What are some mile markers God has given you to let you know where you are on the path toward your destiny?

What are some indicators of your personal calling or purpose that God has revealed to you?

Have you experienced any development in your sense of calling through the years? In what ways?

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Esther was raised to the position of queen and was then asked to step out in faith. God placed Esther as queen not only for her benefit but also for the preservation of His chosen people. However, in taking this step of faith, Esther risked everything. Like Esther, you weren't placed in the position you're in just for yourself. You weren't given your skills, talents, connections, and personality for your benefit alone. When you look back over the course of your life, you start to see a pattern of preparation as God has equipped you for the destination where He's taking you. This pattern of preparation is leading you toward your calling or purpose.

Your calling involves a combination of many factors, such as your talents, interests, background, experience, passion, personality, and connections. When all of these elements merge at the same point on life's path, God is placing you in a position to fulfill your purpose. Identifying some of the pieces that make up your purpose can help clarify the direction God wants to take you in life.

List three of your talents or skills. You can keep them vague, such as interpersonal relationships, organizing information, and so on.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List three areas of interest to you. Examples might be reading, athletics, and cultural awareness.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Identify one pursuit you're passionate about.

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Finally, list three aspects of your personality, such as introverted, talkative, deliberative, or spontaneous.

1.

2.

3.

None of the qualities and interests you listed are random. God gave you each one for His intended purpose, just as He did for Esther. Her history, heart, and humanity combined to align her life with the perfect divine purpose of delivering her people from certain death.

- Esther's background as an orphan no doubt gave her compassion for the downtrodden and a sympathetic connection to people in need.
- Esther's heart for her uncle and the Jews emboldened her to carry out her destiny by going before the king to request intervention on their behalf.
- Esther's humanity—her personality and beauty—provided the opportunity for her to intervene for her people, because these traits played a major role in enabling her to be chosen as queen.

Similarly, God has a plan for you. A plan that will bring Him glory and others good. A plan that will involve the unique combination of your own history, heart, and humanity as well.

Review Esther 3:1–4:8, considering why God might have raised up Esther to be queen at the same time Haman was plotting against the Jews.

How do we see God intentionally working behind these scenes in this story?

At the same time Esther was being raised to be the queen of Persia, another royal official, Haman, was plotting to destroy the Jews because of his hatred of Mordecai. It's no coincidence that these events happened at the same time. God used Esther's gifts and position at the perfect time so that He could redeem His people through

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her faithfulness. Esther served her purpose. All faithfulness requires is that you serve your God-ordained purpose.

What happens when we compare our purpose and calling in the kingdom with someone else's purpose and calling?

Far too often we fall prey to the illusion that our lives don't matter or that we don't have a specific purpose on earth. We can blame this tendency on many causes, but one of the prominent ones is comparison. The increase in using social media has led to an increase in personal comparisons, which in turn have led to a drought of personal self-worth. Couple this trend with our culture's worship of celebrities, and a number of people just can't seem to find contentment in or even an awareness of their purpose in life. God's purpose for you isn't the same as His purpose for the people you follow on social media or for the celebrities you see on TV.

Though your purpose may not seem as significant as Esther's, it's just as important, just as critical, and just as valuable. When you're driving, you sometimes hear the phrase "Eyes on the road." Similarly, when you're pursuing your purpose on the pathway God has placed you on, keep your eyes on His mile markers in your life, not on other people. Look at the ways He's positioning you for such a time as this.

★ PRAYER ★

Loving Heavenly Father, give me the heart, insight, and perspective to view my purpose through Your eyes. Help me not to ignore the gifts, talents, and desires You've placed in me. Give me patience while You arrange the prerequisites and details for fully living out Your calling for me.
I trust You along the pathway. In Christ's name, amen.

◉ DAY 2 ◉

YOUR PURPOSE IS BEYOND YOU

A friend was driving through Dallas when he rounded a curve on a fairly busy tollway, only to discover a ladder lying in the middle of the road, apparently having fallen off a truck. He quickly swerved to miss it and then called to inform the authorities so that they could remove the ladder. Thankfully, no one was hurt. A ladder in the middle of a busy tollway could prove disastrous.

The same thing is true of ladders that are leaning against the wrong wall. The disaster might not be as graphic or immediately noticeable, but the impact could be just as tragic. It's nothing short of a disaster for someone to spend the bulk of their time, energy, and emotions pursuing a goal or a purpose, only to discover it wasn't the correct goal or purpose.

Yet that's the case for many people today. In fact, many Christians will have spent a large part of their lives climbing the ladder of success, only to discover at the end that it was leaning against the wrong wall. In an effort to meet the standards of our world's system and our world's idea of success, many people will have missed the purposes of God. They may be accomplished in their education, careers, and wealth, but they'll stand before God never having finished the work He had created them to do.

One reason we aren't raptured at the moment of conversion is that God leaves us here to accomplish His kingdom purpose.

Have you experienced a season in your life when the goal or purpose you were seeking proved futile or unimportant? Describe the way this misplaced effort affected you and those around you.

It's easy to get off the right path and pursue goals that don't lie within God's purpose for us. Examples include the pursuit of people, possessions, paychecks, power, popularity, and perhaps even some piety sprinkled in there to make us feel better.

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Yet when our pursuits aren't tied to the kingdom and God's overarching agenda, we've missed the mark of His purpose for our lives.

Review Esther 2:8-20. What tangible blessings might Esther have experienced by being named the queen of Persia?

In what ways could these blessings have led to complacency and prevented Esther from taking a risk to help her people?

Esther embraced her preparation to become queen. Because she pleased Hegai, the king's eunuch, she received a better diet and care (see v. 9). She went through an extravagant yearlong beautification process (see v. 12). The king loved Esther more than all the other women and rewarded her according to the pleasure he took in her (see vv. 17-18). Esther lacked nothing. It would have been easy for her to enjoy these benefits and coast into a life of comfort and opulence. Later in the story God would call her to risk all of this for the sake of her God and her people. Later we'll see what this risk involved.

God's purposes often come coupled with sacrifice. This is why Scripture often emphasizes qualities like courage and faith.

Read Joshua 1:6-9 and highlight every reference to courage or a lack of fear.

God gave these instructions to a leader and military commander. We might assume a military commander, of all people, wouldn't have to be told to have courage. But knowing Joshua's heart and the difficult task that lay ahead, God emphasized this quality time and time again. If Joshua had to be reminded to have courage, imagine how much more courage a young, unexperienced woman like Esther would have needed. Each of us needs to remember that pursuing the pathway of God's purpose for our lives will require courage.

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Describe a time in your life when God led you to do something or say something that required courage or faith.

Why do you think God calls us to do things that require courage and faith?

Pursuing God's purpose often requires taking courageous steps of faith. Before we go any further, I want you to examine your personal views of courage and faith.

Read the following verses.

*When I am afraid,
I will put my trust in You.
In God, whose word I praise,
In God I have put my trust;
I shall not be afraid.
What can mere man do to me?*

PSALM 56:3-4

*You have not received a spirit of slavery leading
to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption
as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"*

ROMANS 8:15

*God has not given us a spirit of timidity,
but of power and love and discipline.*

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Based on these verses, where does fear come from?

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These verses make clear that fear is a given fact of life. They don't tell us to avoid, ignore, or deny it. Instead, how should we address our fear?

How would you express the strategy these verses provide for living with courage?

One way you'll know you're on the path to God's purpose for your life is that you'll be required to place your trust in God in order to take the next step on the path to your destiny. God often asks us to do things that are beyond our own abilities and comfort so that we'll have the opportunity to see Him work. That way He receives all the glory when we carry out His purpose.

Until we're willing to press forward in spite of our fears and discomfort, we'll find ourselves stuck at the roadblock called resistance.

Where do you need to press forward in your purpose despite fear and obstacles?

Who's a wise friend you could look to for support as you press forward on your pathway to purpose?

*** PRAYER ***

Loving Christ, teach me how to place my trust in You to such a degree that I'm willing to take risks in following You. Show me the value of great faith on the pathway to my destiny. Help me not to miss Your purpose for my life because of my comforts or security. In Your name, amen.

◉ DAY 3 ◉

PASSING THE TEST

If you'll remember your high-school or college days, you'll recall that you couldn't take some courses until certain other courses had been completed first. The courses that had to be taken first were called prerequisites. The educational institution had determined that certain fundamental information had to be mastered before the student could enroll in the next course. For example, before enrolling in algebra 2, a student must have taken and passed algebra 1. If foundational formulas weren't learned in algebra 1, it would be impossible to take and pass algebra 2.

Your pathway toward your purpose also has prerequisites. One of these prerequisites, which you studied yesterday, is learning how to trust God in the face of fear. Another prerequisite is passing the test of faith in spite of what you can or can't see. This test of faith might include taking a risk as you step out in obedience to what God has asked you to do.

Esther is a book about risk. Chapter 3 details Haman's plot against the Jews. In chapter 4 we see Esther and her cousin Mordecai begin to respond to the challenge of Haman's plot. Yet another prerequisite, as we discover in the life of Esther, is knowing what to do when we confront a dilemma we don't know how to tackle on our own.

Read James 1:5. When you face a difficult decision, why is it important to draw on the wisdom available to you?

Read Jeremiah 33:3. Describe a time when God gave you insight or direction when you needed it and asked Him for it.

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Read Psalm 32:8. What three things did God say He will do for you? How have you experienced His doing any of these in your life?

1.

2.

3.

God gives us guidance, wisdom, insight, and direction in times when we face a decision or a dilemma and don't know what to do. We just need to seek Him, ask Him, and learn to listen to Him as He leads us. Often the times when we face a dilemma we don't know how to solve are exactly when God is arranging circumstances so that we can live out a specific purpose He's called us to. Typically, these are times of trial and testing.

God usually doesn't call us to fulfill a purpose during times when blessings rain down and life is going well. In fact, a person's purpose is often preceded by a deluge of testing. Passing these prerequisites, otherwise known as tests, moves you further along in your purpose. When your usefulness to the kingdom matches your calling, you're ready to fulfill the purpose God has for you.

Read Exodus 14:10-22. Briefly describe what happened and how the Israelites responded.

What dilemma did Moses face?

What test did Moses have to pass? In what way did God move Moses further on the pathway of his purpose when he passed the test?

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When has God allowed you to be in a dilemma? What test did you need to pass? Describe what you learned from the experience.

People face many types of tests, often just before a breakthrough is about to occur. It could be a test of patience, as in the case of Joshua and Caleb, who had the courage to enter the promised land but had to wait forty years due to their fellow Israelites' lack of faith. It might be a test of obedience, as when God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, in whom he was placing the promise of his legacy. Or it might be a test of courage, as in the case of Esther.

Part of what it means to be a disciple and to be affirmed in your calling is to submit to learning, preparation, and testing. Whatever the test may be, you can be sure of this: if you don't pass it, there will be a retest, just like in school. God wants to make certain you pass the prerequisites necessary for fulfilling your purpose because within those prerequisites are the foundational principles and qualities you'll need to fully live out your destiny. Nothing could be worse than arriving at your destiny unable to live it out due to your lack of spiritual, emotional, or character development.

Read Ephesians 2:10 and Philippians 2:13. What's God's role in preparing us, motivating us, and carrying out our purpose?

Why do you think we try to rush ahead of our preparation for our purpose?

What are some dangers of arriving at a specific purpose or calling before we're adequately prepared?

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Read the following verses.

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

JAMES 1:2-4

Why should trials be met with joy?

What's the fruit of going through trials? What would we miss if we were never tested?

Trials produce mature faith. In His great love for us, God patiently waits until we're mature enough to live out our destinies before He ushers us into them. A five-year-old wouldn't have a chance of passing a physics exam, so enrolling him or her in a physics class would be cruel. God reveals His kindness to us in allowing delays on the pathways we walk. He wants to be sure we pass the prerequisites we'll need before we take the next step on the path to our purpose.

★ PRAYER ★

Lord and Savior, open my eyes to see ways You're testing me so that I can seek Your wisdom, guidance, and strength in the midst of them. Help me not to run ahead of the preparation and development You're accomplishing in me. I want to be ready to do all You ask me to do as I take each step on the path to Your purpose for me.

◉ DAY 4 ◉

TO BOW OR NOT TO BOW

The backstory of Esther's courage started with a man named Haman. A few years into her reign as queen, the king promoted Haman and gave him greater authority than anyone else at that time, other than himself. To recognize his new level of authority, all people were required to bow and pay homage to him.

As you might imagine, once the bowing had been decreed, the citizens of that region complied. That is, all but one man named Mordecai. Mordecai refused. Mordecai equated the act of bowing and paying homage with worship, and worshiping anyone other than God would be idolatry. Although he could respect Haman's role and position over him, he couldn't worship Haman. Mordecai reserved worship for God alone.

Read Esther 3:3-5. What were the results of Mordecai's refusal to bow?

Haman was incensed by Mordecai's dismissal of his personal esteem and honor. His refusal to bow filled Haman with so much hate that he determined to kill not only Mordecai but also all of Mordecai's people, the Jews.

Has God ever asked you to choose between honoring Him and honoring someone or something else? What was your decision, and what were the results?

Read Exodus 34:14. What's one reason we aren't to place anything in a higher position of honor than God?

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Read 1 Samuel 15:2-3,9. When Saul failed to completely destroy the Amalekites, what conflict was set in motion for future generations of Israelites?

Because Haman was a descendant of the Amalekites, his hatred was fueled by more than a lack of honor shown by Mordecai. Haman's hatred came coupled with vengeance and reprisal, stirred on behalf of the blood of his ancestors. His thirst for power over the Jews didn't merely arise when his stature was elevated. It went decades deep into a history rife with racial conflict.

Haman's plot to rid his nation of the Jews was set in stone. The king had agreed, and now Esther and her people were on the pathway to total annihilation.

This circumstance brings us to another critical principle on how to discern whether it's your time to join God's purpose for your life. You know it's your time when God connects spiritual preparation with spiritual warfare.

Read Ephesians 6:12. What lies behind every conflict we face in the physical realm?

Why is it important to recognize the source of conflict as spiritual warfare?

Read Ephesians 6:13-18. What situation are you facing that could be brought to a conclusion by applying weapons of spiritual warfare?

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According to 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, what do weapons of spiritual warfare have the power to accomplish?

Haman was an agent of the devil, whose goal was to thwart the purposes of God on earth. In the Old Testament this goal was carried out primarily through the targeting and destruction of the Jewish people, whom God declared that He would establish and protect and through whom the Messiah would come. Thus, throughout the history of the Jewish culture, we see a pattern of genocide and destruction. The Book of Esther dramatically portrays that effort.

In the New Testament, as well as in the age in which we live, Satan's destructive goal is directed at the church. Satan seeks to mute the effectiveness of the church, the men and women God has called to represent Him. To achieve this goal, he uses people and systems to seek to destroy God's program, promises, and purposes.

Whenever God is getting ready to use someone or a group of individuals, they'll have to fight battles. They'll have to face spiritual opposition. Satan's effort to destroy God's program and purpose includes you because you've been called to serve God. Your life isn't just about you. It's about God's greater plan, of which you're a part.

The aim of Haman's ploy to get rid of Mordecai wasn't just to get rid of Mordecai. It was a tool Satan used to incite and escalate rage in the heart of Haman so that he would set in motion a plan to obliterate an entire people from the planet. Spiritual battles occur on the pathways to purpose because an enemy is lurking on this same pathway, and he wants nothing more than to stop you in your tracks.

✧ PRAYER ✧

Dear Lord, open my eyes to recognize the source behind the challenges I face in my daily life. Help me wage warfare by using the tools You provide in Your Word. Let faith accompany me in every step I take so that I can reflect You and Your purposes for my life in all I do. In Christ's name, amen.

◉ DAY 5 ◉

BLESSED TO BLESS

Spiritual warfare is a prerequisite for spiritual purpose. If you're not able to wage spiritual battle when Satan tries to thwart God's agenda, you're not ready to realize your ultimate spiritual destiny. Before God gives you spiritual responsibility, He wants to know that you have the wisdom and self-restraint to succeed against the schemes of the devil. He wants to know that you won't neglect your spiritual identity and resources when trouble comes.

When challenges come your way, it's easy to start relying on what you know to do in the natural realm. It's easy to leave the spiritual at bay when your path diverges into darkness. Yet it's only when you've demonstrated a reliance on spiritual weapons for spiritual battles that God will release you to fulfill your ultimate purpose.

Read the following verse.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 PETER 5:8

How is the devil described in this verse? What does this description teach us about his nature?

How does being sober-minded help us stay alert to recognize spiritual warfare?

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Spiritual warfare has a way of wearing down even the strongest among us. Consider what happened to Mordecai. The pain gets so deep, the desperation feels so great that hopelessness dominates our hearts and minds. This is exactly where Mordecai found himself when he heard that Haman's hatred extended beyond him to his people.

Read Esther 4:1. What was Mordecai's response to the news?

According to Esther 4:3, what did the Jewish people do in response to the news?

What can we learn from Mordecai's and the Jews' responses to the difficulty facing them?

God isn't opposed to the full expression of our emotions. Why do you think many of us try to hide our honest emotions from Him?

Keep in mind that while all this was taking place, Esther was living behind the walls of the palace. She hadn't heard of the destructive plan that Haman had set in place. In fact, she hadn't even spoken to the king in quite some time. But eventually, Esther found out about Mordecai's weeping and became deeply disturbed over what she heard. She then instructed one of her attendants to ask why Mordecai was so upset.

Read Esther 4:7-8. Describe Mordecai's response and his plan to solicit Esther's involvement.

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**Has someone ever sought your intervention in an urgent situation?
How did you respond?**

You know it's time for God to move you to your ultimate purpose when He places you in a position to leverage your influence for the advancement of His kingdom. This is exactly where Esther was. God hadn't providentially chosen her to be the queen simply because she was pretty. Rather, He used her beauty and temperament to position her for influence and impact. God knew the day would come when a military strategy against His chosen people would be instigated. He specifically positioned Esther for this situation.

When God has positioned you to leverage your influence for kingdom purposes and the advancement of His agenda for His people, you're securely on the pathway to your destiny. God always blesses you to be a blessing. He doesn't want the blessing to end with you but to flow through you.

Read Genesis 12:2. Why did God choose to bless Abram?

In what sense was the blessing Abram received supposed to extend beyond him? How did this promise play out in the remainder of Scripture?

Whenever you go to God to ask Him for a blessing, always keep in mind His purpose for blessing you. Always pray that He will use His blessings to you as blessings to others. Maintain that mindset as you go through each day, maximizing all God has given you in ways that will strengthen, bless, and help others. When God blesses you, He also has someone else in mind whom He wants you to bless.

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As with Esther, God wants to know whether you'll use the pathway He has placed you on in ways that will advance His kingdom. Will you use the gifts, talents, skills, and resources He has given you to bring Him glory and expand His kingdom agenda on earth? Or will you simply use them for personal gain?

When you have little or no concern for God's kingdom in using the blessings He has given you, you've literally cut off your blessing. In fact, many people watch their blessings become curses when they choose to hoard them for personal gain rather than kingdom expansion. You're blessed to be a blessing. You're promoted to bring about promotion. You're equipped so that you can also equip. God intersects the circumstances and activities in our lives with those of other people in order to move His kingdom agenda forward.

Consider the ways God has blessed you. How are you using those blessings to bring good to others?

How can you increase the ways you're extending your blessings to others?

★ PRAYER ★

Loving Lord and Savior, help me recognize the blessings You've given to me and give me wisdom in using them to bless others.
Forgive me for failing to extend the blessings You've given me.
I want to please You and expand Your kingdom influence through the pathway You've placed me on. In Christ's name, amen.