



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 5 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY 01

ESTHER 4:13-17

"If I perish, I perish." These have to be some of the bravest words ever spoken. Esther called for fasting and prayer to God. As for she was concerned, her life was in His hands now. She took the risk and went into the king's throne room uninvited. God, who gave Esther favor with the king before, gave her favor with the king again. The king lifted his scepter toward her. God worked through her risk.

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE BRAVERY?

IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU NEED GOD TO HELP YOU BE BRAVE?

Pray: Pray a prayer of fresh surrender to God's will for your life. Declare your trust in Him to use your life for the glory of God and the good of the world. Ask Him to empower you and guide you today.

ESTHER 8:1-8

WHAT IS GOD'S FAVOR? HOW DOES IT HELP US FULFILL GOD'S CALL ON OUR LIVES?

WHAT ARE SOME AREAS OF DISCOURAGEMENT OR DISTRACTION THAT MIGHT HOLD YOU BACK FROM OBEYING GOD'S CALL?

Esther took an enormous risk and God honored her faithfulness with His favor. The reward for her risk was a role in God's work. With Haman out of the way, Esther begged the king to let her do something to save her people. The king gave his royal authority to Esther and Mordecai to write a new decree to counteract Haman's decree. The salvation of God's people came through the timely action of His servants.

Pray: Tell the Lord about any discouragement you feel or distractions you are facing. Ask Him to show you His plan for you in this season of your life. Commit to follow Him, no matter the risks or the costs.

DAY 03

ESTHER 9:1-2

As a result of the timely victory over Haman's plot, the fame of Mordecai, Esther, and the Jewish people spread throughout the Persian Empire. A new annual feast called Purim was founded to celebrate God's saving work from Haman. God wants to use our lives to reveal His glory to the world. We respond to His grace with our faith and obedience. In His perfect timing, He shows Himself to the world through our lives.

WHAT DOES ESTHER'S STORY TEACH US ABOUT THE PERFECT TIMING OF GOD'S PLANS?

WHERE IN YOUR LIFE DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE WAITING ON GOD'S TIMING?

Pray: Declare your trust in God's timing in your life and that He knows the right time for the right things He's called you to. Ask Him to fill you with His wisdom and patience to stay focused on what He's doing in your life in this season.

MATTHEW 4:18-21

WHAT DID JESUS MEAN WHEN HE TOLD DISCIPLES HE WOULD "MAKE" THEM INTO WHAT THEY WERE CREATED TO BE?

WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN FOLLOW JESUS IN THIS SEASON OF YOUR LIFE?

On the day of Pentecost, Peter cast the net of the gospel and the Lord filled the net with people (see Acts 2:41). It happened again in the temple, again in Joppa, and again in the home of Cornelius (Acts 4:4; 9:42; 10:44-48). Peter didn't make himself into a fisher of people; Jesus did. The Lord also made Esther into the queen He created her to be. And the Lord will make you into who He's created you to be too. You simply have to follow Him.

Pray: Thank the Lord that He's created you for specific purposes in His kingdom. Commit to leave anything behind to follow Him for the rest of your life. Ask Him to continue to make you into all He's created you to be.

ACTS 26:12-19

Paul received a "heavenly vision" for his life. Basically, Paul saw his call through Christ's eyes. Esther likely didn't see herself as the future queen of Persia, but God did. Mordecai likely didn't see himself as the future Prime Minister of Persia, but God did. Paul clearly didn't see himself as a missionary and church planter for the Jesus he had been persecuting, but God did. God sees your life through the lens of His call on you in Christ.

WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD MIGHT BE CALLING TO DO IN HIS KINGDOM LONG-TERM?

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS GOD IS CALLING YOU TO RIGHT NOW?

Pray: Pray that God would fill you with His knowledge of His will for you. Ask Him to show you how you can serve Him and others now. Tell Him you trust Him with your life.