

## January 16, 2022 James Gallaher God's Will - Part 3

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God is using us wherever we are. Don't get weary and stop believing that God is doing something. The story of Esther has an incredible impact on how we can trust God.

To know God's will: 1) Trust God - lay your entire weight of burden upon Him because He cares for us. 2) Pray. 3) Study God's Word. 4) Get godly counsel. Each needed to be in unison to walk w/ confidence to God's next step.

What does it look like to walk out God's will? **Esther 1:1-4** *These events happened in the days of King Xerxes, who reigned over 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia. At that time Xerxes ruled his empire from his royal throne at the fortress of Susa. In the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. He invited all the military officers of Persia and Media as well as the princes and nobles of the provinces. The celebration lasted 180 days—a tremendous display of the opulent wealth of his empire and the pomp and splendor of his majesty.*

King Xerxes comes from a lineage of ungodly kings, a sensitivity, and an understanding to listen to God's people and rebuild Jerusalem. The King's wife refused his command and was sent away. They then try to conquer other areas of the world but resulted in failure. As the King questions himself, he made a plan to find another queen. Mordecai had a cousin, Esther, that had lost her parents and that he had raised. Mordecai hears of the contest to find a queen and enters Esther in the contest that takes a year of pampering and charm.

The ordinary is what leads to extraordinary. How are we ordinary? God will use events around us. **Esther 2:17** *And the king loved Esther more than any of the other young women. He was so delighted with her that he set the royal crown on her head and declared her queen instead of Vashti.* We tend to write off the normal things that happen around us assuming that God is not working as we didn't have a choice. But God still has a choice. God gave Esther an uncommon beauty that He would use in her later life. The most beautiful orphan Jewish girl was chosen as queen and not within her understanding.

There are things in our lives that we see as a burden but God could be using them for a far bigger purpose. How often do we overlook what God gives us to benefit Him? Life puts us in certain, ordinary circumstances. God wants the place you are at and the life you are living. Stop looking for His will in other places. It is not a coincidence. Some Christians sideline themselves as they can only see ordinary.

It's not a coincidence where you are. God's will is not a coincidence. It's not luck regarding Esther. God's will is about His plan for you - **Jeremiah 19:11**. God knows and we don't.

**Esther 3:1-2** *Sometime later King Xerxes promoted Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite over all the other nobles, making him the most powerful official in the empire. All the king's officials would bow down before Haman to show him respect whenever he passed by, for so the king had commanded. But Mordecai refused to bow down or show him respect.* This disrespect goes back 1000 years before this instance, to Esau, the Amalakites and Agagites. These 2 unrelated players are battling which God will be served. The King calls for Jews to be destroyed as they won't bow not knowing that Queen Esther was a Jew.

Mordecai calls Esther to speak. **Esther 4:11, 13-14** *All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days. Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"*

Esther did not know what the outcome would be. God ordained her appearance. We have things in our lives that we might look down on or see as a burden. Mordecai gives her a purpose. God put her into that moment. God's purposes are not for our own. God doesn't need us to accomplish His will. God is bigger than our obedience. God gives us an opportunity to be a part of it.

Esther, will it be you? When God's will comes to lead us to the unknown, will we go? Esther was willing to die to be in God's will. It was not a coincidence. Esther didn't know the outcome but was willing to take a stand for her people. King Xerxes loved her and gave her favor and to her request. Mordecai then becomes in charge and Haman was killed. God's people are redeemed through an unknown people.

We put too much value on the extraordinary instead of the ordinary. Will we be ready to move from our ordinary and common faith to extraordinary movement in the kingdom of God?

We are common and sometimes broken but God can use us. Will it be me? Will we allow God in His sovereignty to lead us? It requires trust. Esther's situation was huge. Sometimes victories are small steps, apologies...

I'll never leave you or forsake you is God's promise to us. Is His presence here to lead me out or to lead me into a place? God has not abandoned us. He is with us. If we are God's people, then let's chase His path and His purposes. Will it be you? What step do you need to take into the unknown?

Trust God - make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior. Be a faithful-in-the-ordinary kind of people. God is leading us - take a step of faith.

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What ordinary things has God placed in your hand?

When have you ignored a situation that seemed hopeless for God to use you?

What step do you need to take into the unknown?