

Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>,

Esther 4:14- “For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.””

In comparison to Zacchaeus, who made sure that he was in the right place and did so on his own free will, Esther did not want to be in this place. She was living in exile, away from her homeland. She was swept up by a tyrannical King into his harem. She was forced to endure all kinds of humiliation before becoming his Queen, a decision that she had no say in. She did not choose this place, and would not have if she could have avoided it, and yet, God took her brokenness and used her to save her people from a genocide. “For just such a time as this.” It is one of those lines that sticks with me, especially in times of hardship or frustration. I use this line to remind myself that while God didn’t cause these hard times for me, he may be leading me to a runway where I can take flight and build the Kingdom.

Often, it is when we find ourselves in places where we feel uncomfortable or out of sort that we have our eyes opened to the needs of others or see an issue we can help resolve. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen the eyes and hearts of middle and upper middle-class youth be opened while doing mission projects through Ozark Mission Project. These students had no idea that such poverty existed in our state, and it has led many of them into a lifelong pursuit of caring for those who are economically challenged.

Sometimes we get to choose the runway, other times it is provided for us, but in each case, we must be ready to gain speed and feel the lift of God working in our lives.

### Questions for the Day

1. Have you ever felt like Esther, in a place you didn't want to be, but felt God calling you?
2. How can you put yourself in an uncomfortable position that might open your eyes to the needs of others today?