"And who know whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" - Esther 4:14

I. TROUBLE BREWING

- Haman, a descendant of King Agag of the Amalekites, has plotted the destruction of the Jews (1 Sam. 14:47-15:35; Esther 3:1, 9).
- Mordecai, Esther's adopted father, hears of the plot and informs Esther (now the queen) through envoys (Esther 4:1-9).
- Esther informs Mordecai that she is not able to present herself before King Ahasuerus, or it is likely death awaits her (Esther 4:11).

II. THE CHALLENGE

- Mordecai challenges what may be in Esther's mind, that as queen, she might be spared even if all the other Jews were killed. Self-preservation is a strong remedy against self-sacrifice (Eshter 4:12; Mark 14:66-71; Acts 13:13).
- Courageous Mordecai is sharing his courage with Esther. Courage is not lack of sense, nor lack of fear; it is mastery over fear (Esther 3:1-2).
- We are called to trust God. This takes both good sense and good courage. It means, sometimes, going out on the ledge (Prov. 3:5-6; Matt. 14:28-33).

III. WHO KNOWS?

- God does not need us.
- God will do it without us.
- God may use us.

KNOW: God will reach the nations with the gospel. We will either be used by him or we will not. The choice is largely ours.

DO: Prepare yourself for such a time as this.

Suggested Reading:

To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson by Courtney Anderson (Available in the LifePoint Missions Library)

For Teens:

Hero Tales—volumes II-IV by Dave and Neta Jackson (Available in the LifePoint Teen Library)

Next Week's Text: John 4:35-38

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Esther 4:12-14

- Talk about Esther and Mordecai. What is their story?
- 2. What are their characteristics? What can you discern from the text?
- 3. Why does it take courage to be a Christ-follower?
- 4. How can we know God's call on our own life? Does the Bible help us here?
- 5. How do we know that God will accomplish his purposes with or without us?
- 6. What part will you play in God's developing plan of salvation? What can you do?