

# Mother's Day: For Such A Time As This

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You remember the verse in the book of Esther where her uncle Mordecai tells her that there is a plot to destroy all the Jews. Esther who is a Jew and queen of Persia is strategically suited to do something to save her people. In Esther 4:14 in the NASB: "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Those words: "For such a time as this..." have come to symbolize how God strategically places us in positions at the right place at the right time to accomplish a necessary task. Mordecai recognized that Esther had a choice. God could position her, but God would not make her do her part. She had to agree.

There is another story in Judges 4 of a prophetess and judge named Deborah. The Canaanites under the leadership of the commander Sisera were threatening Israel. God revealed the plan to Deborah, and she called Barak, a commander in Israel to go up against the 900 iron chariot army of Sisera with 10,000 men of Zebulun and Naphatali. Barak responded "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." Deborah replied, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman." That woman was Jael who drove a tent peg through the temple of Sisera as he lay sleeping.

There have always been women who were used by God at critical junctures in history to accomplish His divine will:

- Sarah was there to give birth at 90 to the son of the Promise, Isaac.
- Rahab was there to hide the spies and save her family from Joshua's army.
- Abigail was there to prevent David from making a serious mistake in wiping out her family and business.
- Mary was there to answer the call to bring the Savior into the world
- Mary Magdalene was there to announce the resurrection of Jesus
- An unnamed Samaritan woman at a well was there to bring her town to Jesus
- Eunice and Lois were there to raise a young man named Timothy who went on to serve with Paul in spreading the gospel to the entire world.

On this Mother's Day, who knows what time it is? It might be a time for you as a mother or a woman to step up, stand in the gap, and do something that God can use in a significant way in the kingdom.

What do these women have in common?

- Position
  - Accepted that God placed them at the right place at the right time.
  - Accepted that God had prepared them for service.
  - Accepted that God had placed confidence in them for the job.
- A Vested Interest
  - Esther had an interest in saving her people-and herself.
  - Sarah had an interest in having a child.
  - Rahab had an interest in saving herself and her family
  - Abigail had an interest in saving herself and her family
  - Mary had an interest in being obedient to God's calling
  - Mary Magdalene had an interest in Jesus being alive to validate her faith.
  - The Samaritan woman had an interest in doing something right for a change
  - Eunice and Lois had an interest in overcoming the pagan influences of Timothy's Greek father.
- Willingness
  - Each of these women had a choice.
  - The task before them was presented.
  - They decided to join God at the point of His will.
- Active, Thoughtful Faith (Not a perfect faith)
  - Esther's faith led her to risk coming into the king's presence uninvited and devising a plan to draw out the enemy.
  - Sarah got ahead of God in the plan with Hagar, but ultimately got on board with God's program.
  - Rahab threw in some lies into the plan, but kept her word to save the spies.
  - Abigail used wisdom in her plan to persuade David not to take vengeance.
  - Mary overcame her skepticism and shame to allow God to use her
  - Mary Magdalene spoke up even though she risked not being believed
  - The Samaritan woman also risked being ridiculed by the townspeople.
  - Eunice and Lois' faith caused them to stick to their convictions in raising Timothy to believe in the God of Abraham even though his father was a pagan, idol worshipper.

Each woman today must assess where you are-what time is it in your life? How has God prepared and positioned you for service? How is God tapping into your vested interests and wanting to partner with you in accomplishing something that benefits both you and God? You must decide if you are willing to be used by God in what He is calling you to do? And, you must apply your faith to the matter, being thoughtful and deliberate in

your response. Who knows that you have been called to serve God at such a time as this?

Before any of us can be fully used by God we must decide to let God save us and place into His service. God can use those who are unsaved to accomplish some of His purposes, but He works best with His children. If you are not a child of God today, who knows you may be here for such a time as this. Won't you decide to trust Jesus to save you from your sins, decide to repent of your sins and follow Jesus, confess Jesus as Lord, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?