



Monday, May 18, 2020 - Esther 5

Do you know your route? Esther had just made the decision to risk her life, go against the rules of the palace, and speak to the king to save her people. Esther deliberately planned her steps to bring about the right decision for her people knowing that she will have to boldly face the King and Haman. In this pandemic crisis, it is challenging not to be overwhelmed by the lack of clarity and certainty. However, we can find hope in Esther's bold route to plan and prepare. She courageously faces the unknown with calculated steps and guidance from her mentor Mordecai. Today, let us pray for God to guide our route, resist panic, and plan our future steps with our heart focused on and assured by God.

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 - Esther 6:1-11

Is your check engine light on? Many find it hard to sleep at night as we all learn to cope with the pandemic. As thoughts and fears swirl in our mind at night, it is easy to skip over the ordinary blessings that happened throughout our day. The king could not sleep so he took the time to reflect on the records of the palace. There he found a forgotten honor and blessing...the life-saving act of Mordecai. When fear or worry start to creep into your peace of mind, check yourself by pausing and reflecting. Write down 5 blessings from your day and praise God.

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 - Esther 7

Do notice the road signs? Esther boldly spoke out for justice for her people to the king and the court. She called attention to the pain and suffering of her marginalized people and dared to speak truth to power. The King responds to her request and God brings justice to the people through the prophet Esther. In our current global climate, how do you hear Esther's words? How do we hear and acknowledge the injustice against marginalized people in our country? Our current crisis has shined a light on issues of food insecurity, health care access, and racism. God calls us to face challenging situation with bold action. Today, we ask God to give us bold action to speak and work for justice.

Thursday, May 21, 2020 - Psalm 37:1-7

Have you checked your patience gauge lately? Discernment is a spiritual act that takes intentional time and patience. At a life crossroad decision, we may panic to fill our time and minds with information, opinions, and checklists. Yet, Esther and Mordecai decisions and experiences exemplify how often the Holy Spirit can guide us in a direction that seems to defy our lists, opinions and expectations. Today, take 10 minutes to acknowledge how you are making life decisions. How can you create space for God to speak into your decisions? Reading scripture, talking to a spiritual mentor, singing a favorite hymn, or an intentional prayer walk are simple ways to discern the will of God in your life.

Friday, May 22, 2020 - Hebrews 10:19-25

Do you share your route? Take time to share your struggles and hope as we face this pandemic together. God blessed the relationship between Mordecai and Esther and they lived out that blessing in their love for God and one another. The reading from Hebrews reminds us "to consider how to encourage one another to love and good deeds" (Heb 10:24). Share your faith and hope with another person today. Ask God to give you Esther's courage and determination.

Saturday, May 23, 2020 - Worship Prayer

Lord, we come before You today knowing what it is that You require of us but wondering how to achieve these things You ask of us. As we continue to ask ourselves how to better serve You and one another, guide us, support us, and encourage us. Guide us in making the right choice. Support us as we work to follow those decisions. Encourage us so that we may always be asking the questions and striving to find the answers. In your name we pray. Amen.