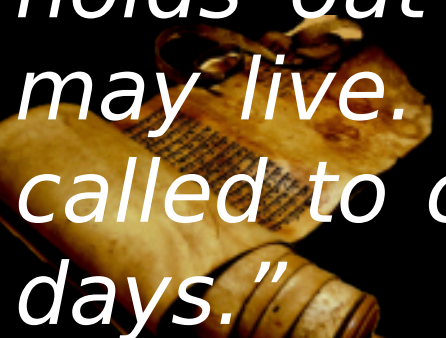


Esther 4:10-17 (ESV)

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, 11 “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.”



Esther 4:10-17 (ESV)

12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”



Esther 4:10-17 (ESV)

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, 16 “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.



Esther 5:1-9 (ESV)

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace. 2 And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.




Esther 5:1-9 (ESV)

3 And the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom." 4 And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast that I have prepared for the king." 5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked." So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared.



Esther 5:1-9 (ESV)

6 And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." 7 Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is: 8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- No Short Cuts

And the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom"6...The king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Esther 5:3-8 (ESV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- No Short Cuts

7 Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is: 8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

Esther 5:3-8 (ESV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- No Short Cuts

*Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"*

Matthew 4:8-10 (ESV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

Mark 6:17-29 (NIV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

19 So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, 20 because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Mark

6:17-29 (NIV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

21 Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

Mark 6:17-29 (NIV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

*The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you."
23 And he promised her with an oath,
"Whatever you ask I will give you, up to
half my kingdom."*

*24 She went out and said to her
mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head
of John the Baptist," she answered.*

Mark 6:17-29 (NIV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

25 At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Mark 6:17-29 (NIV)



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

Nursed a grudge against...
Metaphorically to be held in or by
anything. To be entangled in
something, to be enmeshed, be
subject to"

Cited by Beth Moore



Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Understand the Real Issue

God's purpose for Esther wasn't for her to nurse a grudge but to deliver a people.



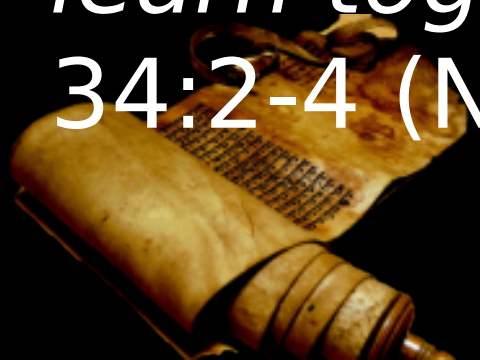
Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Seek the moment

*“Hear my words, you wise men;
listen to me, you men of learning.*

***3** For the ear tests words as the
tongue tastes food. **4** Let us discern
for ourselves what is right; let us
learn together what is good. Job*

34:2-4 (NIV)



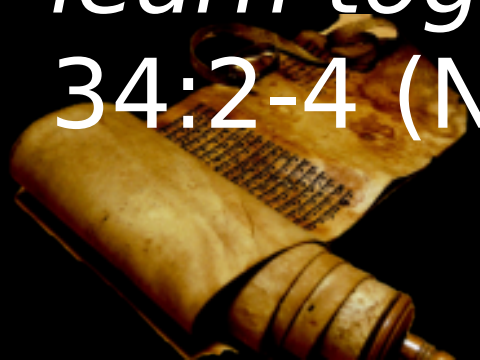
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Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Seek the moment

Discernment is...

*...an increasing capacity to
recognize and respond to the
Presence of God – both in the
ordinary moments of our lives
and in the major decisions we
make along the way*

- Ruth

Haley Barton

Our Motivation Must Be God's Will and God's Timing

- Seek the moment

*"...Tomorrow I will do as the king
has said."*

Esther 3:8 (ESV)



This Begins With an Invitation
To Join What God is About To Do

*For if you keep silent at this time,
relief and deliverance will rise for the
Jews from another place, but you and
your father's house will perish. And
who knows whether you have not
come to the kingdom for such a time
as this?"*

Esther 4:14 (ESV)



We Join Him By First
Seeking God's Will...His Purpose and Plan

“Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do
Esther 4:16 (ESV)



Jesus Is Our Ultimate Example

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

John 5:19-20 (ESV)



Finally...It is all about God's Glory

Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him."

John 13:31 (NLT)

