

## *Background Noise*

### **Esther 4:15-17**

“Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ‘Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.’ So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him” (NASB).

The Book of Esther almost didn’t make it into the Bible. It’s a book that doesn’t specifically mention God. Instead, the story centered on a woman who is forced into a competition to become queen of Persia. After the coronation, Esther learns about a plot to kill all the Jewish people in the nation, including her beloved uncle. She invites the king and his right hand man (who also happens to be the one behind the plot) to a banquet. That night, she wimps out and instead of revealing the truth, asks them to a second banquet. Finally at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, Esther tells the king the truth and begs mercy for her people. The bad guy is killed. The good uncle is given a promotion. The Jewish people rise up to defend themselves. And a yearly celebration still takes place to honor the victory.

I have to admit, this story sounds more like *Hunger Games* or *The Bachelorette* than spiritual guidance.

So why did the Jewish people include this story in their scriptures? And why did Christians keep it around? I propose that part of the reason is that we don’t go through our lives with the name of God plastered on every person, place, or thing we encounter. We live with unexpected drama and unexpected boredom every day. We have relationships that change us forever, and others whose names we forget five minutes after the goodbye. And there are places in the Pacific Northwest that feel like home (for me that includes both my parents’ house and Café Delirium in Gresham), and others that I would never return to (sorry Lloyd Center).

And God is present in all of it; even if no one says the magic words. We can go through the actions of life, and of worship, and know there is something bigger taking place even if we can’t quite see it. He is there when I can’t see Him, hear Him, or understand Him. He is there in the background, working alongside us through the possibilities and struggles of the everyday.

MLD

### **Point for Prayer:**

What are some of tomorrow’s possibilities? And who can I thank for the good things they will bring?