



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 10 - Day 2

Desperate Times and Desperate Measures

by Wes and Kim Holloway

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Esther 4:15-16

If you're not familiar with the whole backstory of Esther and what she did to save so many lives, it's worth the read. Esther was a woman of incredible inner strength even when facing the possibility of death. We would all do well to practice a bit of what Esther preached. This is what we see in these verses:

- Queen Esther was facing the crisis of her lifetime for herself and her people;
- She was traveling through uncharted waters by committing to go to the king without being summoned by him; he could be receptive or he could have her killed;
- Esther was living proof that 'desperate times call for desperate measures;'
- She didn't undertake this daring appointment with the king without first asking for prayer—lots of intense and sacrificial prayer from the Jews

Each of us, at one time or another, will face a major crisis (or several) in our lifetime—it is inevitable. Live long enough and you'll face a significant difficulty in your marriage, your job, your children, your extended family, your finances, or some other major area of life. When these troubles arise, we feel desperate. Out of control. Fearful. But we don't have to feel any of these things.

The crisis is inevitable; the desperation is not.

All Our Father asks of us is to cry out to him for help. Call upon him and he'll respond. It's so ridiculously simple and straightforward, we sometimes have a hard time accepting it. We overcomplicate it; we doubt the simplicity of it all; we think it's too good to be true. But it's not.

Resist the urge to act out of desperation, trying to handle things with your all-too-limited abilities. Save yourself lots of anguish and frustration and futility by turning to Christ first, instead of after you've tried handling things on your own. Stop, drop, and pray...and ask God to deliver you, to guide you, and to be with you through your next challenge. It's a promise he's made to all of us in every situation. Why would we ever think to doubt it?

Just like Esther's fascinating story of God's providence, our lives, too, can be a living testimony of God's trust and provision and caring for us through all our days—without fear of an unreasonable king.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is your house built upon sand or rock?
2. What practical steps can you take together to strengthen the foundation of your marriage?

Action Steps:

Make a list of practical steps to strengthen your marriage and share them with each other.

Prayer:

God, we know that crises are inevitable in this life. We know trouble will come our way. We also know that you have plans for us and will always be with us through the crises of life. As a family, we ask you to give us the strength to come to you at all times, asking for your hand to be upon us and to guide us through the challenges we face. We ask you to deliver us from the potential trap of trying to handle things on our own and instead, turn to you in all things. We also ask that you make your face known to us and allow us to become closer and more dependent upon you with every passing day. Thank you in advance for your provision..