

Flash mobs were the rage a couple of years ago. Usually organized through the internet, a group of people decide they're going to meet at a certain place at a certain time, say for example the mall food court. Once there that group may sing or dance in what appears to be a random happening but really is well coordinated. You've seen the commercial of the man waiting in Grand Central Station. At twelve he throws his coat off and starts dancing. Others standing in similar coats look at him with frowns. Then he gets the text message. The flash mob was moved to twelve thirty. He had the right place, just the wrong time.

If you've ever had that feeling like you were in the right place but just the wrong time you know what that man was feeling. You've probably also had the feeling where everything in life was wrong, wrong place and wrong time. Trouble or difficulty rise up and you need help. What about others around you? Are you connected enough to notice when they're experiencing trouble or difficulty? If you're strong, do you help those in need of help around you? Sadly the answer is not always.

Esther is the story of one lady who wasn't experiencing too much trouble, but the people around her were. They needed help but she wasn't plugged in enough to notice. That didn't mean she was in the wrong place or in the wrong time. It took the prompting of her cousin to get her to realize that all along she was in the right place...

For such a time as this
A time of vision
A time of saving

She had been an orphan living in a strange country with her cousin. It was depressing. That was all before she entered the contest. For one year she was given select treatment; six months of oil treatments, six months of cosmetic treatments. Suddenly she was selected the queen. Like most queens she moved into the palace. She ate the finest foods and drank the finest wines. She was pampered with everything she could want. Everything was going fine for Esther.

The Jews couldn't say the same thing. They were doomed. One official in the king's court had it out for the Jews. He succeeded in getting a decree signed that all Jews were to be exterminated. In a short time all Jews would be dead. The plan couldn't be stopped. These exiles had no bargaining power. That's what Mordecai wrote to his cousin Esther, the queen. This would happen, unless one Jew who was in a high position did something. His note included a warning. **"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape."** Esther, herself a Jew, wouldn't escape death. If for no other reason than self preservation she should have some vision and do something for her people.

Taking stock of where you're at in life is a good thing. It keeps you grounded, keeps you moving forward. It also allows you to recognize that life isn't always falling apart. Today might be a great day. Health is in order, grandkids keep you excited about tomorrow, and income level is just where it needs to be. Everything is really okay and you're doing fine. It's those times when we're concentrating on ourselves we can think it's all about me. We might fall into 'pampering ourselves' mode. We're very generous with ourselves. We like "me" time. We might get so wrapped up in "me" time that we fail to notice the others around us.

Do you have the vision to see if you've been placed where you are because it's just the right time for something big? We need a Mordecai to come along in our life and tell us it's not about us. He told Esther, **"Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this."** She wasn't queen so she could enjoy the pampering or the prestige. She was there by God's plan to provide deliverance for the Jews. You haven't been given health and wealth so you can enjoy time at the spa or a vacation. Those things aren't sinful, but think bigger. Think broader. Who knows but that you have been given health, wealth, or experience for such a time as this. God has put you here for this time. Have vision for those around you who need your help. Bring them Jesus.

Each time our vision got a little "me" focused Christ died for that sin. Every time we thought it was all about us and forgot to be generous, Jesus died for those times too. We have a Savior who died for each of our sins and for the sins of those who need our help. You are here, right here and right now, for such a time as this. Christ gives you different vision, a vision that sees by faith those that need Christ Jesus.

Four years passed from the time Esther was made queen before the Jews were under this threat. During those four years no one suspected what Esther was being prepared for. Think over your last four years. What has changed? The city where you work? Your address? Your relationships? In four years time each day you might wonder 'what am I doing here?' Just like Esther trust that God is preparing you for something, something yet to be seen. He's giving you vision so you can save.

Mordecai wasn't going to allow Esther to miss her moment in history. God didn't need Esther. But Mordecai had the vision to see that Esther was there to participate. **"If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place."** It would take more than Esther to overcome this plot. Mordecai had every confidence, even though he never used his name, that God would be behind everything happening to overcome this plot. And Esther didn't miss her moment. She expressed her faith in God by asking the residents of Susa to fast and pray with her. She knew she couldn't save anyone at all without the Lord's help. The Lord strengthened her to face the plot. God strengthened her faith to resign herself to death to save her people.

What if no one had responded to the needs of New Orleans after the hurricanes or to the destruction in Joplin? What if we had just turned and looked the other way when the tornadoes came through Piedmont? Turning aside like that would be basically saying we don't care. We know it requires sacrifice to help out. It takes effort on our part, money, or time. It can and does hurt. Our sinful nature wants to keep everything for ourselves. We have a moment, but our sinful nature wants to miss it.

Jesus had his moment and didn't miss it. **"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."** He entered history at the exact right moment. Everything was set for him to live perfectly and die innocently. He put his life on the line to save yours. He willingly exchanged his life for yours. He was willing to make you acceptable in God's sight even when we didn't deserve it. He was willing to go the extra mile, just like those friends who lowered their paralyzed friend through the ceiling. It wasn't easy digging up the roof or lowering their friend down on the stretcher. It wasn't easy for Christ to do what he did, but his love for you and for me allowed him to do it.

Now Christ's love for us becomes our calling. We have been saved, now we have the opportunity to save, either in big ways or small. Call it our own "for such a time as this" moment. Christ won't let that moment pass for you either. It's a calling to be generous, to offer help where and when we can. If in some way you have the ability to contribute to the needs of others, do it generously. Maybe you can dry the tears of someone or lift a burden off someone. Maybe you can invite and sit with someone so they don't feel lonely at church. Maybe you can pray for someone, encourage someone, or financially back someone. It's your moment in Jesus, strengthened in faith you don't do it alone.

In order for anyone to act in a flash mob they need to be aware of the flash mob. It requires the proper vision. For us who are saved by Christ he gives us new vision. It's the vision to see beyond ourselves to others who need us. Given that proper vision we can work to save, all to the glory of God in Jesus. That's because Christ's love is our calling, and our calling is for such a time as this...right now.