

Esther Moments

btw...

By Shari Miller

It takes you by surprise. You've been going about your daily routine when maybe the phone rings or there is a knock on your door or you have a new e-mail in your inbox. "Let's talk," the message says. And you get that feeling ... you know the one ... that this opportunity is going to shape your life ... that God has put you in this situation for such a time as this.

Esther, a beautiful girl, suddenly finds herself in just such a situation. She has been chosen to be queen, and that ultimately gives her the opportunity to save the entire Jewish nation from annihilation. She is fearful for her life and must make a decision outside of her comfort zone. Her cousin Mordecai says to Queen Esther in Esther 4:14b: *Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?* He seems to be saying, "Come on, Esther; trust God. He has a plan for you. You're where you need to be. Be prepared. Expect His care. Rejoice in His mission."

An "Esther moment" could be defined as a time when God's purpose for our lives is especially apparent, and we seize opportunities to engage in small acts of courage for the sake of the Gospel ... for such a time as this. Often, God's providence in our lives is seen in hindsight or in the lives of others.

As I ponder my past, I can now see God's purposes in my life fulfilled in my roles as wife and mother. I know that if I had not attended the particular college I did and had said "no" to a date with my future husband, my life as I know it today would not be. The people I have had the joy to know, the children I have had the privilege to bear, and the lives I have touched are all because of God's master plan for me, as I trusted God during the many "Esther moments" in my life.

Perhaps it is the same for you. Can you see those "Esther moments" in your life? Can you see them happening in the lives of the people around you?

As far as the future is concerned, God promises to be with us in and through all our "Esther moments". He promises each of us in Matthew 28:20: *Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* What confidence that gives! Opportunities continue to come and decisions need to be made. We rejoice in His plan as we boldly ... *seize the moment!*

Shari Miller chairs the LWML Bible Study Task Force. Her Bible study about Esther, "Risky Business," appears on page 27.

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btw is the acronym for "by the Way (Jesus)." It sets the tone for the current issue.