

When Purpose Meets Opportunity

Matthew 16:24-25, Esther 4:12-17 Pew Bible Page 1524, 780

Memory Verse:

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. —Matthew 16:25

God’s purpose met the opportunity of human need and formed a cross.

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Genesis 1:26, “Let us make man in our image...”

Rev. 13:8, “Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”

Hebrews 5:8, “He learned obedience from what he suffered.”

1. **Purpose**—Decision of my will to accept God’s plan.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” —Matthew 16:24

Whoever wants to be my disciple_____

Whoever wants to save their life...will lose it _____ live for yourself_____

Whoever loses their life for me will find it_____

2. **Opportunity**—God’s providential circumstances

“Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” —Esther 4:12-14

Recognizing the opportune time (“such a time as this?”)

John 1:11_____

Luke 19:42_____

What does rock bottom look like? _____

What is your next step of faith? _____

3. **Surrender**—obedience under pressure

“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

Experience Holy Spirit power through surrender _____

Romans 12:1 _____

God will direct but waits for us to take the first step _____

When will you take the next step? _____

1 Chronicles 12:32—We may not know the whole plan, but we usually know the next step.

Matthew 26:46, Jesus told the disciples in the Garden, *“Rise! Let us Go!”*

4. **Cross**—Purpose and Opportunity form a Cross

Matthew 26:42, “He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

Esther 4:16, “When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

“A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.” —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Matthew 16:25, “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

5. **Exultation**—Resurrection follows the Cross

Jesus rose from the dead and was given a name above every name.

Esther delivered her people and defeated their enemies.

Lost is found, Sinner forgiven.

Families restored, Lives made new.

God's Purpose accomplished, Jeremiah 29:11, “blessing, hope, and future.”