

Timing

“Be a player.”

Esther 2:12-17

Heart Strings: Lessons for relationships from the Ancient Heroes #6

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Time Flies

I was just returning from a brisk bike ride with a friend, an elementary school principle. We pulled up in my driveway where my four-year-old son, James was playing by himself. He had a fallen branch from a tree that must have had a length of about three times his height. He was holding it straight up in the air while he loudly announced, “I am the Master of the Universe.”

I turned to my friend and said, “Four years old: developmentally he is working on ego integrity.”

That was yesterday; actually 22 years ago. Now James is a grown man. Eight years ago he threw his scholar’s cap in the air and waved his high school diploma and walked into the world. And since then he passed through the ordeal of college, entered the workforce and has dealt with a world that looks quite different than it did when he graduated.

The Time of our Lives

Masters of the universe, you who either just grabbed the diploma or are just about to; and you who did, perhaps decades ago: how will this universe be marked by your impact?

It’s certain that the world out there is fraught with perplexing problems. Planet Earth is very likely on the verge of a global environmental crisis. The economy is in crisis. What will life in Michigan be like in the next few years with, perhaps, a 20% unemployment level in the wake of a General Motors bankruptcy? Who all will contribute to making a better world?

There’s a conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the deadliest and most of oppressive of all the world’s violent struggles. Violence especially to women is despicable. And the lucrative trade involving metals and minerals that are found right in

your cell phones is largely what's at stake.¹ Who will solve it? What solutions might be found?

It seems we are on the verge of discoveries in genetics that will advance prevention and treatments of Parkinson's disease and several cancers. Means may be found to heal people with severed spinal cords. Who will contribute to finding the cures; and who will find ways to supply the funding they need?

There are overwhelming challenges and problems out there. And always, Masters of the universe, there is a choice. Will you just watch, or even worse: will you wind up on a Jay Leno *Jay Watching* spot only to reveal that you haven't even been paying attention? Or will you somehow find a way to contribute?

This was the choice that Queen Esther was forced to make. She was an orphaned girl among the captive Jews in the immense Persian Empire. But she won a beauty contest that made her the prized wife of the king: one of those rags to riches stories. You'd think she had it made for the rest of her life; in fact, that's what she thought.

But a new threat emerged that promised to annihilate all her people. Mordecai, her uncle who raised her, was in the center of the trouble and sent a message for her help. If there was one person who could influence the king and save their people, it was Esther. There was a problem, though: it was a law that said that you could only go to the king at the king's invitation. It could never be the other-way-around. If you barged in on him, he could have you killed; in fact, he would have to be in a good enough mood to forgive you and let you live. Risky.

From Esther's perspective, even if all the rest of the Jews were put to death, it looked like she was safe. What could be more secure than being married to the king? Why should she take such a risk?

What would you do?

That's when Mordecai sent the message to her I think might also be intended for you. "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

Truth is, Esther couldn't have escaped the violence of her world whether she kept silence or not. When violence happens against one innocent in the world it happens to

everyone. Like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”²

And you can sit back and let the world happen and somehow what will happen is that the world will happen to you. But who knows? Perhaps you have come to this place, now, for just such a time as this.

Masters of the Universe

You are the Masters of the universe. Christ’s man Paul says in the Bible, “All things are yours...and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.”³

It’s your turn now. This is your place for the sake of Christ. For the sake of Jesus, what will you do with it?

References

- [1] “Q & A: DR Congo Conflict” *BBC News Web Site*. January 23, 2009.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3075537.stm>
- [2] **Martin Luther King Jr.**, *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, April 16, 1963
- [3] I Corinthians 3:21-23