

## **“The Challenge of the Uncertain”**

**(Some thoughts for youth – and others)**

### **Esther 4: 14**

Esther was a young Jewish woman living with her people as captives in the land of Persia. The time came when due to the process of elimination Esther was chosen to be queen of Persia. There were people, one man in particular who wanted to see the Jewish people totally eliminated and he made plans to have this happen. While the king evidently did not know that Esther was a Jew she had an uncle who took her in as an orphan. Mordecai heard of this plan to get rid of the Jews and sent word to Esther and implored her to do something to save her people from destruction. Esther had reservations about what to do but these were the words that Mordecai sent to her, (Esther 4:14b), “And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this”. So, in spite of the danger of the undertaking, she accepts the duty and will go to the king. Thus in her case possibility becomes responsibility and opportunity becomes obligation and from there the challenge rises because of the uncertainty and possibility of the situation. “Who knows?” Therefore we have the challenge of the uncertain, the lure of the unknown.

These are especially the words of youth and for youth. Who knows what possibilities are hidden in that young life? Dreams are in order and who knows when a dream may become reality through hard work and perseverance as God is given the right to lead as he knows best. However, to walk day by day into the unknown we get daily strength for daily needs.

In the youthful years it is often not considered how much pleasure may be found in the pursuit of the uncertain which could lead to the attainment for which we could scarcely hope. As we consider Esther; a fatherless girl of a minority race who became the queen of the powerful king of Persia. So, we must also understand that position and possessions become a trust and a test. Often things that we thought would satisfy us at some point will disappoint us if they are not accepted and used in ways that would bring honor to God.

When we think of possibilities becoming responsibilities we need to understand that when God opens a door we must be willing to walk through that door. When we consider the hand of God moving in our life, words like “fortune”, “luck”, and “fickle favor” give way to words like providence, purpose and plan. Esther stood at a “who knows” time in her life and she did not fail to respond even in the face of uncertainty.

Yes, Esther was a queen and the occasion was a crisis in the history of her people and while we may be only common folks with no great demand upon us, one thing is sure, there are matters in our lives that press for decision, they demand attention and action as never before. Who knows what young person has now come to a “who knows” point in their life and God has opened a door even though it may be uncertain as to where the path will lead. This is the challenge of the uncertain and the opportunity to take responsibility of the call on our life.

The clouds that hung over the Jews were very low and very dark, but the darkness broke with blessing upon them as light drove away the darkness because young Esther took responsibility for the opportunity that was presented to her. Likewise, may the dark clouds upon the horizon today, give way to light and encouragement of mind and spirit as you face the challenges of the uncertain days that are yet to come? As you face the future remember; "Motivation occurs when your dreams wake up and put on work clothes".

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