

Why Do I Need a Destiny – What’s Wrong With My Life the Way it is?

Illustration of the Letter

- An envelope is a vessel – must be filled with something good as we all hate receiving junk mail.
- A quality letter can inform, teach, guide, inspire, encourage, discipline. It can change your life.
- As vessels we need to make sure that we contain ‘quality letters’.
- The envelope has the Queen’s stamp on it – we’ve got the King’s stamp! Corinthians: ‘We have been bought for a price’ - we are stamped, we’re validated, we’re good to go.
- The envelope has an address – we too know where we are going.
- The next step is to post the letter, however to illustrate the message I’m just going to throw it away.
- Even though the letter was written to fulfil a purpose and has had time and effort invested into it, and a stamp has been paid for and put on it – I’m going to do nothing with it.

‘Why do I need a Destiny? What’s wrong with my life the way it is?’

God created each one of us with our own specific, unique, hand-picked destiny.

We are equipped with everything in order to see destiny fulfilled.

Psalm 139:16: ‘All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be’.

Jeremiah 29:11: ‘For I know the plans I have for you’ declares the Lord’.

2 Peter 1:3: ‘His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness’.

Brief story of Esther

- The Queen messes up and the King gets rid of her.
- Esther becomes the new Queen and unbeknown to the King she is a Jew.
- One of the King’s officials plots to have all of the Jews in the kingdom killed.
- It is up to Esther to plead to the King to protect the Jews and ensure their safety.
- Esther is successful.

The King Xerxes was in his third year of a successful reign and he was holding the banquet for all the important people in his kingdom.

Esther 1:4: ‘For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendour and glory of his majesty’.

Esther 1:9-21: ‘Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the royal palace of King Xerxes. On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. But when the attendants delivered the king’s command, Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger.

Since it was customary for the king to consult experts in matters of law and justice, he spoke with the wise men who understood the times and were closest to the king "According to law, what must be done to Queen Vashti?" he asked. "She has not obeyed the command of King Xerxes that the eunuchs have taken to her."

Then Memucan replied in the presence of the king and the nobles, "Queen Vashti has done wrong, not only against the king but also against all the nobles and the peoples of all the provinces. For the queen’s conduct will become known to all the women, and so they will despise their husbands and say, 'King Xerxes commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, but she would not come.' This very day the women of the nobility who have heard about the queen’s conduct will respond to all the king’s nobles in the same way. There will be no end of disrespect and discord.

"Therefore, if it pleases the king, let him issue a royal decree and let it be written in the laws which cannot be repealed, that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of King Xerxes. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she. The king and his nobles were pleased with this advice, so the king did as Memucan proposed.'

1) When the King calls you and asks you to step into position – are you going to say no to Him?

The Queen was busy doing her own thing and didn't come when the King called her and therefore she lost her crown.

- The Queen held a position.
- A position of influence.
- She was an ambassador of the King.
- She became a bad influence.
- The ripples created from her disobedience could potentially cause disharmony in the whole of the kingdom.
- She wasn't fulfilling the role that she had signed up for.
- She let the side down.
- She didn't step up to the position that she had been given and so she lost that position.

2 Corinthians 5:20: We are 'Christ's ambassadors'

- We too have a position to fulfil.
- A call on our life to live up to.
- A role / job to do.
- Mustn't push that aside and become more consumed with our own agendas.
- **'Days have already been ordained for us'**.
- When God as our King calls us into action to fulfil those plans, we must be ready and willing to obey Him.

In the space of just one verse she was no longer referred to as 'Queen Vashti' but just 'Vashti'. They immediately started thinking about her replacement.

Heaven has a timetable, there is a ticking clock and it is counting down, there was a beginning and there will be an end.

When the King calls us we can not be found feasting at our own banquet table.

2) The Privilege of knowing the King brings a responsibility to our lives.

Esther 2:15: Esther 'won the favour of everyone who saw her' and subsequently was chosen to be the Queen.

Four years later came her call to destiny. Her uncle Mordecai tells her about the plot to kill the Jews.

Esther 4:12-16: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 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 royal position for such a time as this?"

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "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 maids 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."

- Over the last four years Esther got to know the King personally and intimately.
- She grew in stature and matured in her position as the Queen.
- At this point we see that Esther recognised and understood that she enjoyed a privileged position.
- When she was faced with the task of having to help the Jews she recognised her responsibility.
- **'If I perish I perish'** – 'I've got to do it, I can't not. I can't ignore the call on my life'.

We too have a privileged relationship with the King and this carries a responsibility.

Privilege: A special advantage, permission, right, or benefit granted to and enjoyed by an individual.

Responsibility: The obligation to carry forward an assigned task to a successful conclusion. With responsibility goes authority to direct and take the necessary action to ensure success.

If I want the special privilege of knowing Christ and want to enjoy all the advantages, benefits and rights that go with that special relationship, then I have the duty of fulfilling my work, task and assignment, or destiny, and of doing everything I can to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Colossians 1:21: 'Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation **(There's the Privilege)**. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. **(Here comes the Responsibility)** I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Paul has defined his responsibility as being:

1) 'a servant', 2) to fulfil the 'commission to present the Word of God', 3) to 'proclaim Him', 4) to 'teach' everyone, 5) and to 'labour'.

Because of what Christ had given him Paul sees that he now needs to fulfil his side of the bargain.

Not saying that we need to earn our salvation: **Ephesians 2:8-9:** 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.'

However we have to understand the flip side of that coin - our responsibility - **James 2:14-17:** 'What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.'

If we claim to love the King and if we claim the privilege that salvation brings, then we must outwork our responsibility to fulfil the destiny that he has already ordained for us.

3) Esther was prepared 'for such a time as this'. (Esther 4:14)

- When the call came on Esther's life she was good to go.
- Immediately described as **'lovely in form and features'**.
- She **'won the favour of everyone who saw her'**.
- King immediately approved of her over all of the other women.

When Esther's destiny was revealed we read in **Esther 5:1**: 'On the third day Esther put on her royal robes (Esther approached her destiny knowing exactly who she was, knowing her authority and walking in it) and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the sceptre. Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

- All her life up to that critical point she had done everything she could to be the best that she could be.
- She hadn't even opened her mouth and the King was agreeing to give her what she wanted!
- We might not know what our destiny is right now.
- Accept that you do have a destiny and throw yourself in to pleasing the king.
- Prepare your character for when that call to action comes.

'Sow a character and reap a destiny'

When we seek to be obedient to God, when we seek to cut off the flesh and live in the Spirit and reflect the nature of Jesus, God will see that we are ready.

God will not set you on the path of destiny if you are not found in Christ, if you are not reflecting the nature of Jesus.

Illustration of representing the company at exhibitions out in the marketplace.

- Might not know what your destiny is – but its aim will be to reflect Jesus out in the marketplace.
- The King called for Queen Vashti because he wanted to show her beauty off.
- God wants to use you to show the beauty of Jesus to the lost and dying generation.
- Time to indulge in some heavenly beauty treatments!
- It's when we become like Him that he can use us.

- Parallels to be made between Esther and Mary – the Mother of Jesus.
- The book of Luke - Mary was '**a woman who was highly favoured**'.
- Mary chosen as the vessel to carry the King of Kings – what a destiny that was!
- **Sow a character and you will reap a destiny.**

Conclusion:

Dr Jonathon David said of 2010 – '*We will see prophecy fulfilled and the hand of God move like never before*'.

Dr Lonny Bingle - '*The time is NOW*'.

Pastor Tony Higginson - '*It's time to get seriously serious and not just vaguely interested*'.

- Need to be destiny-minded and not just living our lives for ourselves.
- Don't ignore the call from the King.
- Don't be found feasting at our own banquet table.
- Just like the letter there is a journey planned out for us.
- Don't put a second class stamp on it - pay for special guaranteed delivery!

Why do I need a destiny? What's wrong with my life the way it is?

- If you've signed up for salvation you've already got a destiny written for you before the earth was formed.
- It's not *your* life - you've been 'bought for a price'.
- Rise up and fulfil your royal position 'for such a time as this'.