

YOU WERE MEANT FOR

THIS

LESSON 3

PERSON

Let me say it again. God has a very specific call on your life, a role to play or a job to do or a task to accomplish that only *you* can do. It isn't just *something* or *a* thing to be done, but rather a very specific thing you are called to do in **THIS** time, **THIS** place, with **THIS** group of people, for **THIS** reason. You weren't meant for just *any* thing. You were meant for **THIS**. (We'll repeat this each week 'til you have it memorized.)

We began by talking about *time*, the specific moment in history in which you were born, and those things about you that you have no control over that make you who you are. And last time, we discussed *place*, the geographic locations where you have influence in the world around you. To help us understand these concepts, we've been exploring the story of Esther in the Bible. It's not a long book, but it's full of great twists and turns, much of which we don't have the time to dig into... so make sure you're reading the chapters along with the lessons. It's a great story! Let's start with a fun question to get us thinking...

Question 1: If you could sit down and have a Starbucks mocha latte with any one person, living or otherwise, who would it be and why?

Read Chapters 5 and 6 from the book of Esther in the Bible.

The Jewish peasant Esther has risen from obscurity to a position of great power, as Queen of Persia. The plot has thickened as the proverbial bad guy, Haman, has hatched a plot to kill all the Jews in the

empire. Mordecai has sought Esther's help, and she has responded. Even if it means risking her life, she will approach the King and ask for his favor.

¹ On the third day of the fast, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the palace, just across from the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne, facing the entrance. ² When he saw Queen Esther standing there in the inner court, he welcomed her and held out the gold scepter to her. So Esther approached and touched the end of the scepter.

³ Then the king asked her, "What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!" (Esther 5:1-3 *NLT*)

Influence. We began talking about influence last week, as we discussed the geographic locations where we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. We even created a map to help us see how wide our impact can be. Today we're going to get more specific. If you've noticed, each week, we've been narrowing our focus. Week 1, we started talking very generally about the time in history in which you were born. Last week, we took a look at the various geographic locations where you might have influence. Today, we're going to narrow our focus even further. There are specific people in those specific places to whom God is calling you.

Again, no matter who you are, and how significant or insignificant you think your impact is, you have influence in the world around you. Unless you are one of those "doomsday preppers," living in a converted missile silo eating nothing but Ramen noodles having absolutely no contact with the outside world, you *absolutely* have influence on others. Esther understood this. She had influence on Mordecai. She had influence with the other Jews in Susa. She had influence on those in her court. And ultimately, she knew she had the opportunity to influence the King.

Question 2: Who was someone who had a profound influence on your life? What was the situation, and what difference did their presence make?

Last week we talked about our "spheres of influence." That is, every geographic location you frequent is a potential place where you can have an impact. However, our spheres of influence aren't just geographic. They contain people. God is going to open doors in those locations for you to be able to make a difference in the lives of the people there, just as he did for Esther.

Question 3: Make a list of all the people groups you are a part of. List your family and friends. Your clubs and organizations. Your business or office relationships. The D&D club you play with on a Friday night. (Not judging. Just saying.) Get specific, because someone in this list might be the very person God has in mind for you to impact! Ready? Go! When you're done with the list, if you're in a group, share! And if you want to go to the next level and follow Esther's lead, take the time to pray for those folks.

Esther knew the person she was called to influence: the king. She prayed. She summoned the courage. She put herself in the right place at the right time. And because she knew her THIS, she approached King Xerxes to attempt to save her people.

Question 4: Who is God calling you to impact? Influencing this person could be something as seemingly small as asking a friend how they're getting along with something they're struggling with. It could be as major as starting a movement or campaign to change the lives of an entire group of people. Who is God calling you to influence? Take a few moments to pray, "God, who are you calling me to reach out to?" And then listen. A name or face or situation might pop into your mind. Write that person's name below. Then commit to praying for that person this week.

THIS PERSON

Esther not only found herself at a specific time in her people's history where she would be used by God, but also in a very specific place and with a very specific person in order to fulfill a very specific call on her life. God will (or maybe has already) put someone in your way to whom you are called to reach out. Pray for this person this week. Then keep your eyes open for an opportunity to make an impact in their life. You never know how you might make a difference, as God continues to unfold your THIS.