



2019 YEAR OF SCRIPTURE
Monthly Devotions
May 2019

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Esther 4:14b

Timing is everything!

**“Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”
(NRSV)**

In the comedy world it is common knowledge that the timing of a joke punch line is critical to the success of the joke (i.e. raucous laughter).

In the parenting world timing is important in the birth process and throughout a child's life as you teach, challenge and even punish during development.

In the leadership world the timing of strategies and actions is important to achieving outcomes of goals. Engaging the “how” and “when” in pursuit of goals is a leaders ongoing task. **Timing is everything!**

Church leaders must include this timing challenge in their discernment to serve on all levels of the church. Congregation council leaders have by now been voted and installed to serve for a year. May is the month that many synods are conducting assemblies which include voting on leadership positions. By now the ELCA has made first call assignments to regions. Candidates, synods and congregations are discerning and conducting interviews for first calls. Leaders on all levels of the church should be asking, “is this the time for my leadership in the church?”

“And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” (NIV)

Esther 4:14b brings us a word about leadership timing. At a critical point in the progression of her role as queen, Esther is challenged to see the timing of her leadership as important to saving her people. Mordecai reminds her that Haman's plot to kill the Jews would also include her death even though she is in the king's house. To remain silent is no guarantee that she would not be killed. Mordecai further reminds her that, “relief and deliverance for the Jews will rise from another place, but she and her father's family will perish.” So maybe, just maybe, her leadership for an appointed time is for an appointed purpose. **Timing is everything!**

As council leaders in your congregation you may think of your leadership position as just filling a seat. However, maybe Esther's story will inspire you to reflect on the timing of your leadership call. What things are happening in your congregation context? What



opportunities in community are calling your congregation for response? What decisions is God calling your leadership to address? How can your leadership further the mission of God's people at this appointed time? **Timing is everything!**

“What’s more, who can say but that God has brought you into the palace for such a time as this?”

(The Living Bible)

Prayer: For all leaders in the church

Gracious God, may the call to leadership in your church be according to your perfect will “for such a time as this”, in Jesus name. Amen.

