

God Has A Place For You



Summer Series based on Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

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Three Things to Remember

1. Consider Them

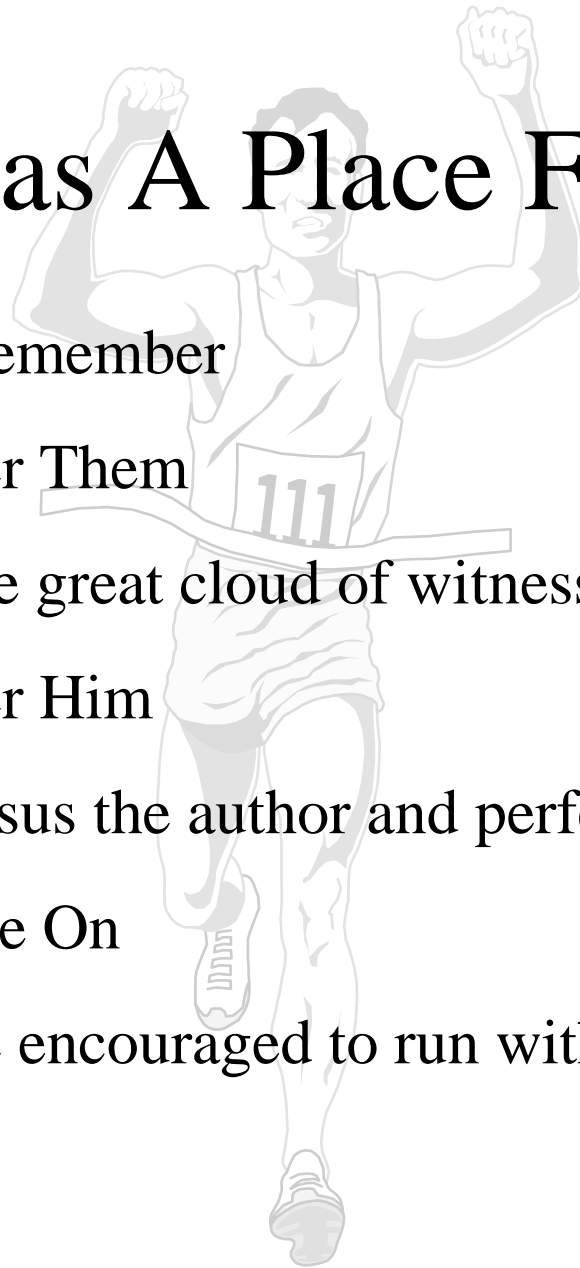
- the great cloud of witnesses

2. Consider Him

- Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith

3. Continue On

- be encouraged to run with vigor the race



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Esther Out of The Stands:

- Found between Nehemiah and Job
- Story just 10 Chapters Long
- Main Characters
 - King Ahasuerus 1:1-2 (Xerxes)
 - Queen Vasti 1:9
 - Haman Chapter 3 profile
 - Mordecai 2:5-6
 - Esther 2:7

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Esther Out of The Stands:

- Outline of Book:

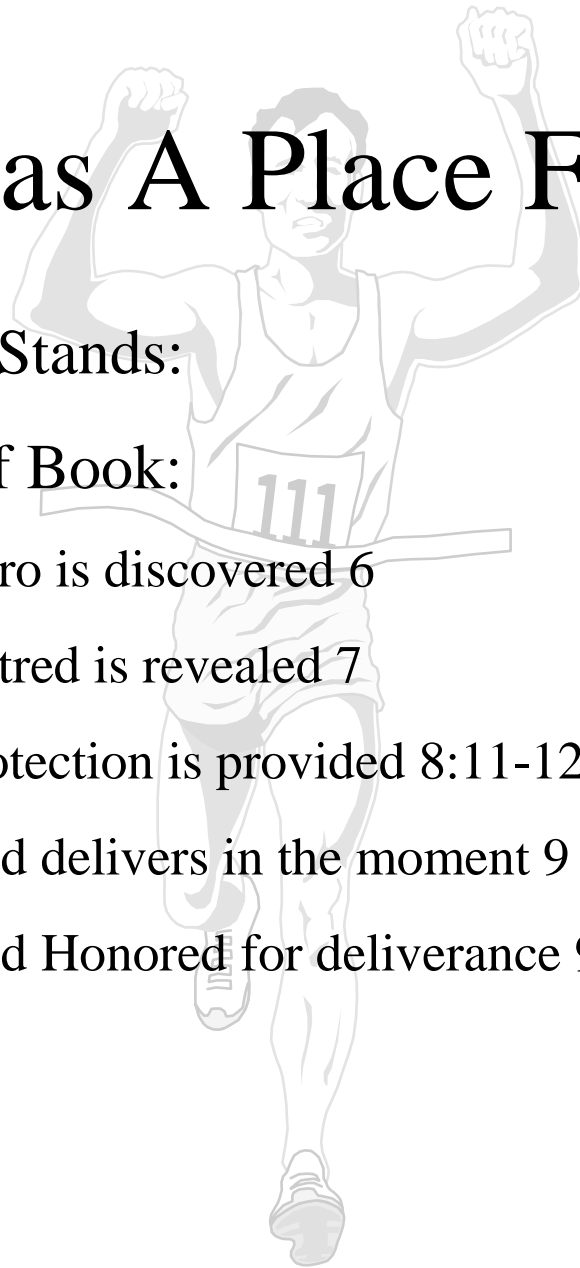
- Out of hand Party and Results 1
- Beauty pageant with a winner 2
- The Queen makes points 2:19-23
- Haman and Hatred 3
- Despair and Impending Destruction 4
- The risk of a Lifetime 4:11-17
- Food, the way to the heart 5

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Esther Out of The Stands:

- Outline of Book:

- Hero is discovered 6
- Hatred is revealed 7
- Protection is provided 8:11-12
- God delivers in the moment 9
- God Honored for deliverance 9:18





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1. Circumstances do not reflect Care!

- *“Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.” 2:7*

- *“...Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, the son of Kish, who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah.”*

- *“When the Kings order and edict had been proclaimed, many girls were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king’s palace and entrusted to Hegai who had charge of the Harem. ... Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so”*

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1. Circumstances do not reflect Care!

- I did not fit anywhere!

- family

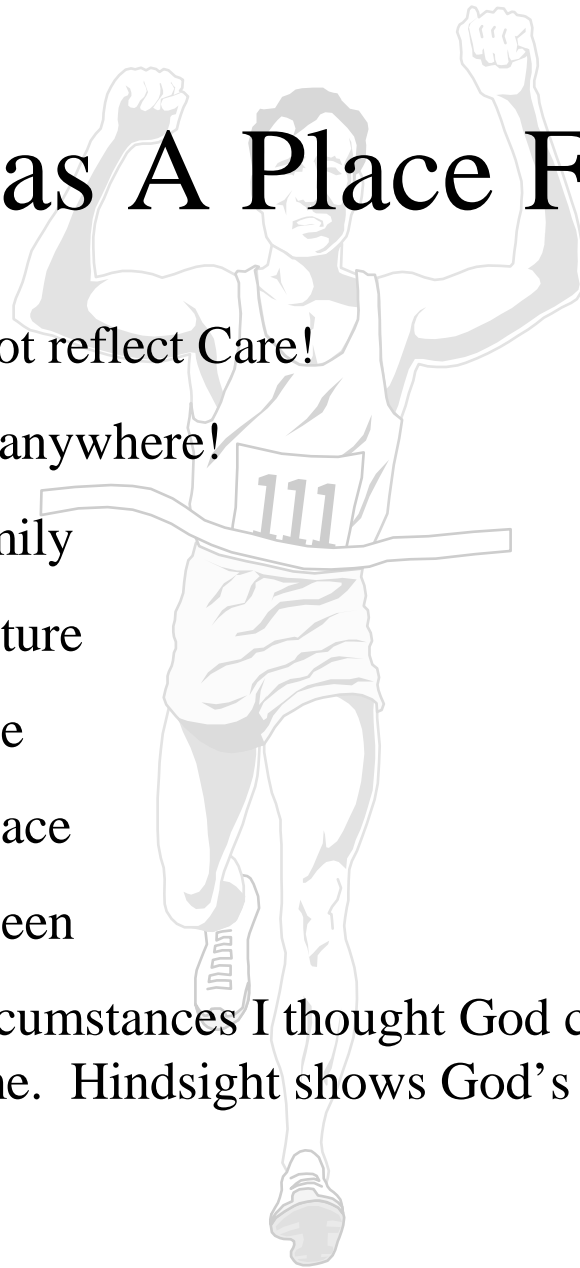
- culture

- race

- palace

- Queen

- if by my circumstances I thought God cared, I would despair of his care for me. Hindsight shows God's care for me always



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2. Confusion can become Conviction!

- Be faithful in confusion, and one moment of clarity brings conviction!

“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?” “...I will go to the King, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” 4:13-16

- When God reveals his purpose - confusion will be replaced with conviction!

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3. Conviction Will Require Courage!

- It is never easy to follow the conviction God wants to use you, for it is always a step of faith.

- I could have been killed several times by nothing more than a bad mood or bad timing!

- It took a step of faith to ask the king. It required an act of God to change his heart.

- "If I have found favor with you O King, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life - this is my petition. And spare my people, this is my request." 7:3

- "If it pleases the King, she said, and if he regards me with favor and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written...." 8:5

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4. Courage for God Will Be Crowned!

- God delivered his people
- God was celebrated by his people
- God was recognized for his deliverance
- Esther and Mordecai honored for serving God
- When you follow your convictions with courage, God is honored and seen!

Here is the Gate, I have to go... By the way -

- God is able to use a good reputation and strong relationships so fit where he places you so he can use you!

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So What!

1. Circumstances Don't Reflect God's Care!
 - it's O.K. not to fit where God has you right now, not O.K. to despair or be difficult!
2. Confusion Can Become Conviction in an Instant!
 - stay right with God and allow him to bring conviction in His time.
3. Conviction Will Require Courage!
 - A step of faith always involves trust in God to do
4. Courage for God Will Be Crowned!
 - leave the results with him