



APPNOTES

Date: Aug 31-Sep 04,2020

Series: Dark Horses

Esther 4:12-14 Esther took a big risk when she went before the king with her request. Her high position as queen and her very life were at stake. But so was the survival of her people. However, her big gamble paid off. The Jews were allowed to defend themselves and her biggest enemy died on the gallows he had prepared for her relative Mordecai. God equipped her and set her in that position so she could orchestrate the salvation of the Jews. What has God asked you to do? What unique position are you in where you can help someone? Maybe you're a nurse helping Covid patients, or a teacher struggling to teach in the classroom or online. Or maybe you're in law enforcement, risking your life for people every day. The next four days we will look at ordinary people like you, who took extraordinary risks. You're in good company.

Matthew 16:24 In 1963, Vivian Malone was denied entrance into the University of Alabama. Governor George Wallace stood on the schoolhouse steps and shouted "Segregation now and forever!" Vivian was escorted into the university with a three-car motorcade of federal marshals and the support of the federalized Alabama national guard. She became the first black student to graduate from that school. Vivian had already finished a two-year program in business education from an all-black college when she enrolled at UA. She could have played it safe by staying at a black institution, but she wanted more. Instead, Vivian lived her life for a cause that would change history. She paved the way so other blacks in Alabama could go to the school of their choice. Is God asking you to do a hard thing? What you do today may help someone tomorrow.

Acts 5:27-29 Corrie ten Boom and her family were Dutch Christians who helped people escape from Hitler's calculated annihilation of the Jews. The ten Booms defied Nazi orders to turn in Jews and sheltered them in their home instead. After someone informed on the family, they were arrested. Corrie and her sister Betsie were sent to die in a concentration camp, but Corrie lived to tell her story. She not only saved Jewish people from death, but her message of hope and courage in the midst of great pain spoke to millions. Here are several of her many quotes: "It is not my ability, but my response to God's ability that counts." "The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation." "Don't bother to give God instructions, just report for duty." Like Esther, she did not try to protect herself when it meant she had the opportunity to protect others.

1 Peter 4:1-2 Jozel De Veuster quit school at thirteen to help on his father's farm. He wanted to become a Catholic priest, but his superiors questioned his lack of education. However, they knew he was intelligent and admitted him to the religious profession in 1860, at which time he took the name Father Damien. Father Damien was sent as a missionary to Hawaii in 1864 and soon volunteered to minister to the leper colony on Molokai. Lepers living in medical quarantine mandated by the government suffered from a lack of proper food, shelter, and clothing. Damien helped establish leaders in the community; together they built houses, schools, roads, hospitals, and churches. He provided medical and emotional support as he cared for lepers' wounds. Eleven years later he developed leprosy, but worked tirelessly until his death in 1889. In life and death, he followed God. He knew what it was to suffer, but he did it willingly for the sake of others. His legacy continues to this day.

John 3:30 Maybe you know Matthew McDonnell. He and his parents attend Parker Hill. Matthew is now a healthy boy who fought a rare form of pediatric kidney cancer for 4.5 years. He endured multiple operations, chemo, and radiation along with many setbacks. Through prayer and a variety of medical treatments, he has overcome every obstacle. His optimism and faith in Jesus have inspired all those around him. Now the Facebook page that once updated people on how to pray for Matthew has become a non-profit to raise money for pediatric cancer research called Matthew's Hope 4 Miracles. Currently, only 4% of the National Cancer Institute's funds are allocated for pediatric cancer. Matthew's smiling face and love for Jesus motivate his mission. Matthew doesn't think about himself. He only wants to help other kids find a cure like he did. He understands that what he experienced is a platform to help others. His young life is an example of God's greatness.

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