



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE SEPTEMBER 2021

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Plans at Such a Time as This

...and who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
Esther 4:14b

The date of September 11, 2001, remains important in the minds of Americans as we remember the attacks by terrorists on our nation. And the country continually plans — trying to combat and prevent further attacks. We are reminded of Mordecai's words to Esther, *And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?* (Esther 4:14b).

As we serve our Lord and His people, we should ask ourselves this question, "Who knows, perhaps it is for a time like this that our Lord is asking us to serve in a particular position or situation."

This devotional message also reminds us of Proverbs 3:5 which says *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.* In order to serve our Lord and share His message in a sin-sick world as "such a time as this," we need to trust in Him and ask Him to show us the way we should go, or perhaps where He wants us to serve.

We are living in an age where flying in airplanes has become a way a life. When we board a plane, we trust the plane has sound equipment, the pilot is skilled and well trained, and the weather is such that the plane is able to take off and land safely. Sometimes however, we hear of plane crashes due to pilot error, wind shear, and other reasons. Yes, sometimes we trust in the wrong things! *Trust in the Lord with all your heart...*

Sometimes we place our trust in people — leaders in government, church or work acquaintances, family members, friends, co-workers — and we are often disappointed. Yes, sometimes we trust in the wrong people! *Trust in the Lord with all your heart...*

Perhaps there are other obstacles in our lives (loss of job, illness, family problems, etc.) that keep us from placing our complete trust in God. Our focus is diverted to the situation at hand. Martin Luther said it best in the Small Catechism: "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

As we continue our journeys of faith, let us trust in our great God, Who gave us His perfect love in the person of His Son, Jesus, so that His healing love can now be extended to others *through* us!

We all make plans. And we may spend a lot of time planning – what clothing to wear, what we will have for dinner, what we will do on vacation. When you got up today what plans did you have? Did you accomplish these plans? Did your plans have the results that you expected?

In Luke 21:1-4, Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in

all she had to live on."

When the widow got up in the morning what do you think was her plan? Did she know that God's Son would be at the temple? Could that be why she went? Going to the temple was a part of her life. It was something she did on a regular basis. Maybe she had been going for years, maybe only since she had been widowed.

Do you think she gave two small copper coins to make a big impact? Did she give to assist people thousands of miles away (as we do with our mites)? Neither of these was in her plans. In fact, she probably didn't even think about that. Historically the word "mite" was used to describe a coin of little or no value and might have been no bigger around than a pencil eraser. Do you think she was highly esteemed in society? Did she take courses on stewardship or sacrificial giving at the temple?

Definitely not. She went to the temple to give to God what she had and what He had first given her, out of love and gratitude to Him. She trusted in God for all her needs.

We, like the widow, do not always know the effects of our actions. Our actions may not have the effect that we expect. We know that our mighty and powerful God can use our ordinary actions to accomplish His purpose in spreading the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

God has given us absolutely everything! What are you giving to Him? – Your mites, your talents, your time, your love, your trust, your heart, your gifts....

Prayer: Almighty and Powerful God, remind me each morning of your constant love to me. I give thanks that You can take my ordinary actions and use them for Your purpose and to Your glory. Show us what You want us to do, where You want us to go. May our actions always be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

All Scripture references are from the ESV.
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We learned about our plans and God's plans for us at the Retreat in August. We learned how our plans so often got detoured, interrupted, and sometimes even replaced by God. We remember that God sees the big picture of our life and our journeys go according to His way for us. But though our journeys are on mountaintops or in valleys, over many bumps in the road, God wants our dependence wholly on Him and to *trust in the Lord with all our heart, and not lean on our own understanding.*