



do not trust the might of kings

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
ESTHER 4:13-14

DON'T IMAGINE YOU ARE SAFER AT A TIME LIKE THIS

"Mom, my children are being traumatized," were my son's words, his eyes filled with pain. Soccer practices and games had been cancelled indefinitely, and the community pool had been closed after masked-men-in-black were seen positioned outside. The neighborhood grocery store now had strangers shopping for those for whom the store wasn't safe.

Landscapers who took pride in the work that kept food on their tables were nowhere to be seen. Entrance doors were being fortified at my granddaughter's elementary, and a fence was being erected around my grandson's middle school. Racism had been pounding on their doors, demanding access to students.

District wide, school leadership had begun asking for frequent updates to identify who could be contacted in an emergency. Daily, teachers were instructing students from K-12th grade, what to do if they arrived home to an empty house. The day middle school students watched from school windows as a brown-skinned person walking on the sidewalk was tackled, beaten, cuffed, and thrown into the back of a black van, my grandson's first words to his father were, "Dad, will my best friend be kidnapped and will they take me, too?" His 11-year old voice, trembling.

When fear tries to convince us that GOD is AWOL, and helplessness threatens to cloud the skies of hope taunting us with trepidation, our anxious hearts can cry out, "GOD!! Where are You??" Could it be that Esther, an olive skinned orphan with no power, and a member of a minority culture on the verge of suffering extinction, whispered the same question to God who was seemingly absent in their circumstances?

REFLECTION AND ACTION

Has GOD's silence led you to assume GOD is only working "in the big moments" at the edge of the Red Sea, or after Jesus' death on a cross? GOD is silent and seemingly nowhere to be found in the book of Esther; GOD's Name, not mentioned once. GOD's silence then and in such a time as this does not mean God is absent or impotent. The LORD GOD JEHOVAH is working even when we can't see it; nudging and positioning us as GOD's compassion-in-motion as we move forward into daily happenings as voices and ongoing acts of mercy, kindness, grace, and sanctuary striving for dignity and justice for all people, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

PRAYER

WOMB OF LOVE, hear the cries of tears streaming from fear and violence. Protect and provide sanctuary for the vulnerable and all whose brokenness weeps silently; wrap in healing, those who weep with angry words and pointed weapons. Heal the wounds of the oppressed and the wounds of the oppressors. Fill with peace, those paralyzed by trauma, and restore love where wounds have triggered revenge, war, and power over others. Position us, and give us courage and discernment to confront what is causing suffering. AMEN.