

AT S9 E15 Her Story Part 4 Esther_mixdown

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Hello and welcome to the Abiding Together Podcast. Abiding Together is a place where you can find connection, rest and encouragement on your journey with Jesus Christ. My name is Sister Miriam James Heidland and every week I'm joined by two of my very dearest friends, Heather Khym and Michelle Benzinger. This podcast is born out of our friendship and all that the Lord is doing in our lives. You hear us laugh. You hear us cry. You hear us share very vulnerably, and you hear us talk about the things that we're still learning along the way. And you're most welcome to join us. You can find out all of our information on our podcast episodes on abidingtogetherpodcast.com, but for now, grab a cup of coffee, settle in and welcome home.

Hello, and welcome to this week's episode of the Abiding Together Podcast and happy Easter, it's still friends happy Easter. We hope that you, um, just enjoyed your time with Mary Magdalene last week. Cause we've got a wonderful woman to talk with you about this week. Who's going to journey with us, and that is Esther from the book of Esther out of the old Testament. But before we dive into the story of this woman's life and just her courageous heart, and all that she has to teach us other Michelle, my friend here we are, it is Easter Michelle. And how are we today?

Michelle Benzinger: We are just groovy. We are just so groovy. Yeah.

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Moving along quite a timeframe here, but I come on me a little bit along a little bit, a lot party group. Yeah. We are groovy baby. We are good.

Michelle Benzinger: Yeah, we totally have a groovy kind of love. I am all good. Happy, joyful. Here we go. Heather, how are you?

Heather Khym: I'm so I'm so happy that it's spring, honestly, like it was a dark cold. Did I say dark, dark, dark, dark, winter. Yeah. So the, the change in the season, the change in the light, like how bright it is and how long, much longer the days are like, this is a welcomed change where I am, especially after so much lockdown and all of that stuff. I am just so delighted that we are in the season. We're in. Yeah. How about you Sister? How are you?

Sister Miriam James Heidland: it is good. It's interesting to notice how much light you have after daylight savings do y'all do with daylight savings. Heather? I don't even know some States in America. We're like, we're not doing that. You know, everybody like complains about it. Yeah,

Heather Khym: We do it. I know you have some rogue places,

Michelle Benzinger: I'm surprised Texas hasn't like vetoed it because,

Sister Miriam James Heidland: you know, I know I'm surprised we haven't just made up our own clock people.

Heather Khym: You can't tell us what to do.

Sister Miriam James Heidland: That's so funny. Oh, sorry. We have a wonderful, just kind of adventure from the book of Esther. And so we're going to talk a bit about Esther and her life and her heart and what she has to just to teach us to reveal to us. And so if Esther, if you've

ever read the book of Esther, Esther's in the old Testament and you can find it right after the book of Judith nestled right there before Maccabees as well. So there she is. And she has just a really beautiful message and This. Really glorious young woman who finds herself in a very unpredictable and unforeseen circumstance. And it's through her heart, right through the intercession, through someone in her life named Mordecai and through her love of God and of the people actually delivers for people. She doesn't think very courageous. So our guiding quote for this time is going to be from the book of Esther chapter four, verse 14, where Mordecai says to Esther, perhaps you were born for a time such as this. And then I love this quote from Pope Francis and Michelle found that says the feminine genius is needed wherever we make important decisions. And amen to that. So, Michelle, I know for you, Esther, as someone near and dear to your heart, so maybe you can kind of kick us off here and talk about who she is to you and kind of what you gleaned from her and her life. Yeah. I love the

Michelle Benzinger: Yeah. I love the book of Esther. I love everything about this. And one of the things that's really interesting is that God is never named in the book of Esther. So he's almost like this silent, but yet very present in his silence. He's always working behind the scenes. And I think that is such a foreshadowing of the Lord is in all the details. Even when we don't see it, you makes all things come together for the good, but I love it also says just to give some context to it, it says the book of Esther is the last external narrative in the old Testament. And I said, the Jews are about to enter the first 400 silent years where God doesn't speak to his people where he goes quiet. And I feel like some of us can feel like that we're having the silent years too. I know a good friend of mine. I was just talking to her last week and she's like, I feel like I'm in the dark night, the silent years, the dark night of the soul, but it says the book of Esther shows that while God is not speaking or has spoken, God is still moving. He is all moving. Even when we can't perceive his movements and it repairs the Jews to look out for how God is moving in the next 400 years without hearing the words of the prophets. But I think that's such a beautiful example that got us moving, even when we can not perceive it. And even when we don't understand, or even we don't feel like we hear his voice or see his movements, he is moving, he has never absent. He is always in the intricate details. And I think for Esther, This, the Lord puts her in time in history to save his people. And that I think we'll, I mean, we will touch on this. When we discussed this Podcast, but that our yeses have ripple effects. The call may be personal, but the effect is, goes for many and whatever the Lord calls us to do. And in whatever way he is calling us to say yes, and our personal Fiat's, our personal Fiat's affect other people's Fiat's. And it is like I said, a ripple effect. So what are your thoughts?

Heather Khym: Yeah, seemingly this story just unfolds. You know, like her life just unfolds doesn't seem like any like major, it's just like, it's just happening. And then there's this invitation. It's just like one step at a time. You see the unfolding investor story. I'm like, isn't this just our lives too. Like things just unfold. And then suddenly find, we find ourselves in a certain situation. And, and what will we do? And I think for many of us, because it's not like blatant, like, Oh my goodness. I'm suddenly a queen in my life. I mean, I try to make everybody call me that, but no, I'm just kidding, but that's why I'm wearing a tiara. But yeah, like sometimes we can just underestimate god's movement and power because we don't have this crown per se, that we can see. And, and the reality is that we have all been placed in our life for this particular time. Like we were born at this time for this there's reasons why. And even though, like you said, Michelle, that we may not perceive where God is, we may

not hear him, or we might not be able to figure out what it's all about. To be able to trust, like with hope that God is moving, that there is a plan and that we are here for a purpose and a reason. And that's something I think really powerful for us to, to unpack and to think about. And I think as women, we often get hit with arrows from the enemy that are like, you don't matter, your voice doesn't matter. Your life doesn't really matter. Like you're not making a big impact and we can feel like really diminished or we diminish ourselves or other people diminish our value. And the reality is that God has us in this place for a reason, wherever we find ourselves. Sister. What are your thoughts?

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Oh, yes. That's the Providence of God and how he works in hidden and quiet ways. And, and what we're going to see. One of the most profound things is we're going to see that the Lord seems to just continually choose the little people in the little ways to do great things. And Esther's very little, she's an orphan. Uh, her parents have, have died, and it says I'm in. Chapter two verse seven is talking about Mordecai, who is her cousin? It says he has brought, he had brought up Hadassah. That is Esther, the daughter of his uncle for she had another father nor mother. The maiden was beautiful and lovely. And when her father and mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. And so you see this man and his masculine genius adopting this young woman to take care of her, to be a refuge for her to protect her and to guide her and his intercession and his role in her life is going to profoundly change the nation. So you see that the beautiful interplay between the two of them, right. And her call on her life and his call on his life and what he reminds her of and what he speaks to her about and how he calls her to, to stand up and to give the gift of her heart, which is we're going to talk about really that quote, This, you know, that for type for you are born for a time, such as this it's really. Something that's very actually pivotal in the life of, of the Jews. But I was thinking also of how, um, I, I, you know, I love Lord of the rings. I love that story. And there's that beautiful part where, and I think as Peter Jackson's version is not tokens, but we're glad real when Frodo is struggling and it's after he gets out of Shaylib's liar. And he's, he realizes that, you know, he, Sam he's kicked Sam to the curb and he's all by himself and he barely escapes the poison of the spider and, and he comes out and he, um, He lays on the ground and he just wants to give up and, and the collateral appears to him. And she says that this task was given to you photo of the Shire. And if you don't find a way, no one will. Like, if you don't find a way, no one will. And I was just thinking of that, the tasks that have been given to us that if we don't find a way, no one will that it's there not given to everybody else. Th the things that like you both were saying, the Fiat that we have to give it is it can't be given by somebody else. And that fiat is given when we're folding the laundry. It's when we're taking kids, whatever to soccer practice is when we're standing in line at the grocery store, it's, it's when we have a choice to be horrendously unfaithful, and we choose not to in big and small things, you know, it's, uh, it's, those Fiats are given to us. And if we do not find a way in the grace of Jesus Christ, no one will. Right. And so you just think of, yeah, just think of the reverberations of our yeses and our nos throughout history. Real it's really shocking. Cause we're so interconnected more than we ever care to admit, I think, or even understand. So I think that that profound reality that our yes, has a yes, it's on our nose. Make a profound difference, you know, into the whole world. The cosmos really changes the cosmos. So. So Michelle, do you wanna talk a bit about, a bit about Esther and that reality that she is an orphan, that her, her relationship between she and Mordecai and then just kind of our whole journey or peer for patient process, and then how she became a woman influence. I love how you unfold this story for us.

Michelle Benzinger: I think first of all, like in the beginning of chapter one where the King's wife refuses to come to him in court, And he is like, I'm banishing her. You know, she told me no, I'm the sensing. The King has a little ego here in the story, but that's okay. Okay. I'll just a little so, but then he puts a call out for all the young burdens or maidens to come forth. And that Esther finds favor her beauty, but like even her countenance. And I think that's a huge thing. She finds favor in the eyes of the King, but this favor is something ordained by the Lord. And then it begins a process. For her to become queen. He chooses her to become queen, but I think that we need to remind ourselves, Esther, wasn't looking, she didn't jockey for this position. She didn't, you know, the Lord appointed her and it tells us some revelations. I think it's three, seven. The Lord can open doors that no man can open. So the Lord has stuff for us. And sometimes like we talk about this a lot. We could strive. And try to make things happen, or do we allow the Holy spirit to open doors for us and abide in his presence? And the Lord can put us in places that we can never even imagine. But like what you said earlier, Sister is being faithful in the little everyday moments. And so after she is chosen as queen. She goes through this purification period. Like it's, I think it's almost a year. The period is like where they, you know, and for the first six months they, um, almost like detox her with myrrh. And I was researching about this. I had done some research before, but like myrrh gets rid of all bitterness in your system, all inflammation, but really it's bitterness. And the context that I was reading is like, especially for women, where have we allowed bitterness to come into our hearts? And like you said, before, Sister Esther could have a good, valid reason for being bitter. You know, she was an orphan her parents letter, but allowing the Lord to heal that bitterness, that our is in our own heart. And then the second part of the purification process was all these different perfumes and oils that are into her skin. So like, what is the fragrance that we are offering? Do we have the scent of Christ upon us? You know, like, do we have that? And I'm thinking to myself, okay, where can we get this day spa here? You did. That was like the next six months here, six months here. It even says they even prepared her meals for her, him. I'm like all about that. You know, it's like, I think we all need to go into a year here for kids seriously and do all that. That's so good. And that sets the stage for her standing up for the Jewish people. Yeah. I'll just let you all take it. That just the purification process and the Lord appointing her. Heather, what are your thoughts about that?

Heather Khym: Oh yeah. I mean, I mean, I L I love that. I love the whole story. I love the things that you're, that you're drawing out and all of that prepares her for coming into her queen ship. And as she's there, you know, she's not aware of all of these big things going on until it's brought to her attention and she has a decision to make, and she has a decision whether or not to stand up for her people, whether to have boldness and to stand up or not. And I think. It's important to notice that, that she does have a decision to make. And we all do like the power of, of our free will that the Lord has given to us. That is a big deal. We have decisions to make. And I think because she was prepared and she has sensitivity there to what's going on, she had sensitivity to her people. She had sensitivity to Mordecai and what was happening. This is a really important part of the feminine genius as we talked about in our series on the feminine genius. If people haven't listened to that, like that might be good to go back and listen to. But sensitivity is one of the parts of the feminine genius. And you see here that Esther has that and that she is allowing that part of her femininity to move her into action. And, and into boldness and into taking a stand. And it's, it's incredibly beautiful and strong, but not overpowering, you know, like she doesn't power her way through things.

Like she goes to the King, she requests and really speaks her heart about the whole matter, which I just love that, that she's, she's fully a woman. She is living into who she is.

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Yeah, definitely. And you see the purification process of what it, what it prepares her for and of how the King, he, he just loses his heart to her. She's just so lovely. And, and like, you both are saying, she's lovely, obviously physically describes that she's physically beautiful, but her countenance is lovely. She just lovely. And he, of all the women, all the women in the kingdom. So I was like Cinderella, you know, she, she wins his favor, totally taken with her. He's like, whatever you want, Esther, you just tell me whatever you want. Girl is your, I mean, I'm paraphrasing

Michelle Benzinger: day spa. Yep.

Heather Khym: Sorry, Sister.

Sister Miriam James Heidland: It's so true because what's happening is one of the Kings men. Haman is plotting against the Jews because Mordecai will not bow to Haman. And Haman is incensed by that and decides to eradicate the Jews from that. And Mordecai gets wind of this plot to destroy the Jews, which is edict has already gone out. The King is really largely unaware of what's happening because Esther hasn't revealed that she is Jewish. And so Mordecai goes to her. That's when Mordecai goes to her and says, you know, Hey, here's this plot, you know, how do you have to go to the King? Now you have to help rescue us now. And some Mordecai is going to tell her that. And she, and you talked about the beautiful sensitivity of knowing who she is, knowing her role, and also saying also stating the truth of, of nobody can go to the King unbidden anybody who goes to the King unbidden. If he doesn't, you know, extend his golden Scepter upon you is immediately put to death. And she's like, I haven't been summoned to the King for 30 days. And it's just, just like stating what's happening. And I love it because that's when Mordecai looks at her and, you know, they have that relationship where he's saying, you know, you, you can go ahead and stay silent, but God's going to deliver his, his people. He's going to deliver the Jews another way. So how he does that, it's up to you. But if you do not, you and your people will perish, God will deliver us. But how do you, how can you not say that it wasn't for a time such as this, that God gave you this favor? The here you are for a time such as this. And you see, like, that's a, that's a very weighty thing to say. It's not just something nice for a coffee mug. I mean, that is really a huge thing, because like you're saying Heather, she has a choice and she could stay silent. And how many of us in our life, mind your sisters? How many of us in our life? And when we talk about speaking the truth in love and doing courageous things, how many of us in our life had those decisions? Where we know the Holy spirit is asking us to say something, or we know that the Holy spirit is asking us to do something or not do something. And all of us have that decision and how it feels like death. Like if I do this, this feels like death or this really, I could lose our friendship over this. And we're talking about not talking about, you know, we're talking about good and healthy things, the things that are the right thing to do. Gosh, isn't that hard. That is just, that is just. So hard. And she decides that she is going to plead to the Lord and surrender her life if needed to do what is being asked of her. And her first action is to go. And she says, you get ready to pray and fast for me. And her first action is to go and bow down before the Lord and start praying, which is amen. I mean, that is our first. That has to be our first action is to go before the Lord and start praying on her, on her face, just lay down in our face and just be like, Lord, you have to help us. Like this is above

my pay grade. I can't do this. I need you to help me. Well, the words I'm going to say, I need your grace. I need your help. And I need it right now.

Heather Khym: Yeah. And I think it's important that, that we notice she's very aware of this decision. And this is like, I think for, for many of us, we get lost in too many battles battles that aren't supposed to be ours. You know, like we're just looking into many places. She's being led by the Holy spirit here and she's surrounding it with prayer. And I think that that's something that we need to. To just reflect upon in our own life. Like, have I entered into battles or am I entering into battles that are not mine to fight? You know, that I'm not here for a such time as this like right here. Like it's, it's actually over here. It's like, you know, so I think we need to be discerning because right now there's a lot of battles to fight. And if we fight them all, we're going to find ourselves, you know, depleted probably. Angry and, and not able to do what we're, what we're actually called to do. So I think there's a discernment there for all of us that I think we need to be very careful of, especially now. Like there's just so many things that we could get in a battle about, but what is the Lord calling us to individually? Where does he have us for such a time as this.

Michelle Benzinger: Mm, I agree. And I think Heather, like, that's such a great point. Like, yes. What is the battle for us to call? Like where is the Lord inviting us and where is he saying guests? And do we approach it with prayer? Like, do we approach it with prayer and is the Lord calling us to wield our influence? Are we just wanting to allow ourselves to be heard? Where we just want to put our 2 cents in and give our opinion, but it doesn't have the weight of the Lord's presence or glory in that opinion. Like he's not inviting us to speak into that, or he's basically it's none of your business. So get out of it, you know, and be about the Lord's business and that her first response and what Mordecai says, don't think. If you say no that you or your family will be saved. Yeah. That there is, there are consequences for our nose. And you know, I've mentioned it before, but one of my spiritual director's favorite lines to me is Michelle delayed obedience is disobedience like delayed obedience. So where is the Lord calling us? you know, he is calling us to be obedient. And it says, if you love me, you will obey my commandments. It's a love relationship with the Lord. So. I mean, it still blows my mind that the Lord has to work with us and through us to bring his kingdom because he could have chosen other ways, but he wants to partner with us to bring his kingdom here on earth. He wants to partner that we get to co-labor with him. Yeah. It, it does. It really still blows my mind. And then I feel bad for him. Like we are what he's got to work with? I'm so sorry, but that is it. But it has consequences. Our yeses have consequences and our no's have consequences. And so what is it and to realize when the Lord invites us into mission with him, but she does each and every one of us through our baptismal call through relationship with him that. We have to approach it with Holy reverence, with Holy reverence. And it's a Holy invitation to come with him to bring his kingdom. The fact that she fasted and prayed and called forth a fast really means that she aligned herself to the Lord's heart. Like she got right with the Lord where it was like, she could see where the Lord's hand was and that she really was approaching like really going to. How is heaven going to move and allow him to move through her, which is a powerful thing. I think, especially for us as women, especially as culture is changing and things are changing and yes, we can say it's a dumpster fire, but, or we can say, where is the Lord calling us to till and cultivate culture right now? And that's through prayer. It is through action. It is through action, but it's prayer and fasting. What do we do before we act? Are we fully aligned with God's purpose in this?

Sister Miriam James Heidland: It's also interesting to notice in all of that, that the Lord delivers the, the nation, uh, through a woman and her feminine genius. What was needed. I remember Heather, you were sharing with us some time ago about a situation that happened. I think with your builders. I mean, it was something that you had to tend to as a woman. Like it's just that you made some what'd you make, uh, not biscuits, but you made scones and coffee and I'm like, Oh girl, that's so good. And I was just thinking of how Mordecai could have arranged to have an audience with the King. And he could have said the same thing that Esther did, but because the King did not have a relationship with Mordecai the way he loved Esther, the way he could hear her heart, the way her feminine heart revealed the truth of what was happening, it wouldn't have been received in the same way. And so when we talk about the feminine genius and like John Paul, the second says, you know, women go into whatever you want to go to as a professional, but go in as a woman, you go in as a woman that the reality of feminine genius, that there are certain things of certain characteristics that women have and certain characteristics that men have that are very suited for certain situations. And you can just see that because the King, you can, you can just see the Providence of it all. You can see the whole Providence unfolding of because the King loved her so much in the way he did. He took her plea and her accusation against Haman. And he took it to be true and he took it very seriously and he wasn't put off by it and he wasn't, you know, didn't wound his ego. He didn't want his vanity. It actually wounded his love for her because he loved her so much. He didn't want anything to come in the way of her destruction. Oh my goodness. You know, he didn't want anything to destroy her. And so I just was thinking of just the beauty of that, of. Of how the Lord just does that at times. Like there are just certain situations where a certain person's heart is only opened by another person and that gift a feminine genius just steps right in there and just completely on the, not unnerving, but the word I'm looking for just disarming, disarming. Yeah. It feels like disarming. Yeah, she disarms the King, and he could respond appropriately and the salvation came through that. I just, I love it. It's just so stunning.

Heather Khym: It's beautiful. I think when we look at scripture, you know, we have to remember that these are real people and they're very similar to us. So if we look at Esther and she was an orphan and you know, this is her story and. I'm sure that she was aware of the lies that the enemy was spinning in her life. And what does he do? Like he, you know, it's like, God is writing this beautiful symphony over our whole life. This beautiful song that he's singing over our whole life. And it's sort of like the enemy too, is singing a song over our life, but it's like this out of tune version of the song that he's singing over her life and we listened to one or the other. And I think often we listened to the enemies song because it's like, kind of. Right. Almost right. Like, there's something about it. That's like familiar to us, but he's twisting. And so if Esther had just like continued to listened to the enemy's lies, like in that moment, she might've been like, who am I? Like, I'm an orphan. Like, I'm not even capable of doing this. Like nobody wanted me, like whatever might've been going through her mind. And she could have given into all of that and just said, no, I can't, I can't do this. And I think that, that, that rings true for a lot of us is that we think about our story. We think about certain moments that we're in. We're like, I can't do this. Like I'm nobody, I don't have the skills. Like I don't. And, and the enemy's like out of tune song is like playing really loudly in our ears. And I think for us to be able to notice the difference between the two. And Esther clearly was like listening to this beautiful song, even if it's like not, she didn't know that consciously, she's listening to like how God is moving her. She's prompted by that. Perhaps you were born for such a time as this Esther and for her, she would have to believe that and

go, yeah, baby. I am, you know, and what do I do with this? So I think there's like this. Beautiful openness that no matter what her story is that she embraces what God can do with her story, despite everything that might've happened in her past. I think that's very hopeful for all of us. And to just notice like where maybe the places that the enemy is like, Singing This out of tune song that I may be listening to that too much. And I'm diminishing my role where I am like, maybe I'm a stay at home mom, or maybe I'm just a student. I think we've put that word in front of things. I'm just, This, I'm just This as if it doesn't matter. I'm like, God knows exactly where you are. He knows who you are. And, and he has a plan for you. And so I just hope that, yeah, maybe we can all just tune in to the symphony that God is writing. And what is the song that he's singing over us and why are we here for such a time as this.

Michelle Benzinger: It's just so. Yes. So important that for such a time as this, I think in culture and in history, I think this is the call that is going on right now is like the Clarion call for us. And I love it. Pope Francis says, he said, a woman brings a richness that man, and all of creation and the animals do not have where there is no women harmony is lacking. Like, so that beautiful song harmony is lacking. So what does it sound like without women? There is no harmony Pope Francis says. And so what is a chorus of women? Sound like, like what is an unleashing of a chorus of women that the Lord can trust with? Influence with bringing forth life, not manipulation, not own agendas, but to bring forth life in its purest and truest and good and beautiful form a chorus in harmony sound like it is life-changing. And I have to think like there's some similarities in the old Testament with Joseph and Daniel and Esther that the Lord used. Them in culture in government to change the world, to bring forth his purpose and call. Each of them had to go through a purification process and trials before they got there, but he used them. And so like, I think what you said, Heather, he uses you right where you are, right. Where you are as fertile, Holy grounds, right. Where you are, is where that purification process is happening, but right where you are, is where your influence is and don't be literal your influence. Say yes to where your influences right now. And the Lord will increase, you know, kingdom obedience brings kingdom, abundance, be, you know, say yes, right where you are and watch him multiply with our loaves and fishes. Just watch him multiply different Bible story, but watch him multiply. Yeah.

Heather Khym: Some people, I feel like literally need to write that down on a sticky note and stick it on their bathroom mirror, where you are is where your influences, you are the queen of your place. Like God. Has anointed you, you are the queen of your domain of where you are. And I think some of us surrender that and we shouldn't go ahead, Sister.

Sister Miriam James Heidland: I'm just going to, just to tie up what you guys are saying. Cause I think it's so beautiful of yeah. Where, where are you being called? And where is the influence that the Lord has given you and your feminine voice, especially as women. Uh, whereas the Lord calling us to use that, to bring about his great works, to bring about his, not her own plan, to being a bank, his great works to speak his life, to speak his blessing, where where's the battle that we're, he's calling us to. And are there battles we're not supposed to be fighting that we are? I think one of the great hallmark tales of battles, we're not supposed to be fighting as our own bitterness and resentment. Usually those are telltale signs of. I find a battle that either it needs to be transformed in my own heart or I'm someplace where I'm not supposed to be, you know, so where's the purification process in our life of the Lord, transforming our bitterness, you know, and allowing it to become the sweetness of his heart, of his limitation. Like we've talked about somebody from Podcast or

just where he wants to rectify where he wants to reorder our loves. And then where is he calling us to give our yes, for times such as this, in the very place that we are, that we don't have to seek it out or go look in somebody else's vineyard it's in our own. It's on our own. So, whereas he, especially in this Easter season or is he calling us to speak life and the place we are planted? Amen girl. Amen. So good. So go Esther. We love her. She's great. She's great. Oh, dear sisters, Michelle, what is your one thing for the week friend?

Michelle Benzinger: My one thing is a shout out to one of our good friend's daughters, Magdalen Kyne

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Oh, she's so lovely. Magdalena.

Michelle Benzinger: Magdalena, is that how you say it? Because she wrote me a beautiful letter and I've never met her. I know Mary, her mother, but I've never met her in person. And she wrote me the most beautiful notes. And then she made the most beautiful pieces of artwork about my word of the year Lorien and she cut out a page from Lord of the rings. And drew this beautiful, like artistic background and then pasted the page from the book on the front. And then on the back, she did all this research and how Gladreal and Lorien and all these just different symbolic things and quotes from Lord of the rings, the different enemy. It was just, and the gifts I received, it was FedEx. Didn't know it was coming and the timing of it, the Holy spirit was doing such beautiful and deep things and speaking so deeply. And I was almost like, Lord, just asking him like, Is this, you, you know, I would just doubting and thinking and wrestling and it's like, is this all you? And then my, literally my doorbell rang and a FedEx package was there and there was this package. I was like, Jesus was standing there. He's like, Oh yeah, it's me. Yeah. He had the Rose and everything. They're just getting like the bachelor. And so, but I was just like, okay, Lord, like I just love the God surprises. And I love people's obedience when they say yes to allow the Lord to surprise them. So thank you so much. You were totally my one thing.

Heather Khym: Yeah. And as we were saying, you know, we can throw that word just like Magdalene is just, yeah. Just a young person, you know, not so not. So the Lord is using her.

Michelle Benzinger: Absolutely. Um, Sister, what is your one thing?

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Oh, my one thing y'all know, I love a good candle and I found a couple. I was at like one of those discount department stores and I found a couple of candles from WoodWick that had the wooden wick literally in them. And they crackle like a fireplace. And so I, I love them. It just something so nice. Not only is that nice scent, they have so many different scents, but they have like the nice you know, the glow from the candle, but it actually sounds like a fire actually, when one of our bird that one of our previous recordings, I had it lit and it was so loud. I was like, sorry, but I don't want a camp fire in your office. I'm just enjoying my woodwork candles. I love all the scents, you know, just let's just get them all. Like let's listen, let's see. Let's smell. Let's let's just get them all pretty soon. Like I'm just going to start touching the glass just to get the sensory version of that. So that's it, Heather?

Heather Khym: Um, my one thing is just the people in our diocese, our archdiocese are working in the offices down there. I just have some dear friends working away and I'm just so grateful for them. You know, it just, this topic we're talking about for such a time as this, and they are, they are in the trenches, you know, doing the hard work and laboring and not

everybody notices all the good work that they're doing. And I'm just so incredibly grateful and the proclaim movement that's rising up here and different things. I'm just so proud of them. And for all the laboring that they're doing for. For the people of God here in Vancouver. That's my one thing.

Sister Miriam James Heidland: Well, dear friends here you are for a time such as this, and we pray. The Lord speaks very deeply to you about your place, your beautiful voice, and what he's calling to do through you, where he's calling you to speak life. So thank you so much for joining us this week and next week we will be, um, I don't know. Let me just say that again until next week. We'll be Abiding Together.

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