

In downtown Athens, near the railroad track, stands a building with chipped brick, busted out windows and a rusty tin roof. The loading dock of the business that use to be there has long been boarded up, and the road leading to it has been weathered to gravel.

Poking up from the tin roof is a crumbling brick chimney and beside it grows a tree.

Yes! a tree is growing on the roof.

That's what I call "Blooming where you are planted." Most people think that saying is in the Bible, but it isn't. However, it is a Bible principle and an attitude that I think God wants all of us to have.

In the book of Esther, the king of Persia chose an orphaned teenager named Esther to be his queen, not knowing that she was Jewish. Esther did not want to go. She loved her family and her people and wanted to stay with them.

After she was queen, one of the king's men was mad at Esther's cousin, Mordecai, for not bowing down to him. He wanted to get even, so he tricked the king into making a law that would kill all Jewish people. Mordecai told Esther about the plot and told her that she would have to tell the king so that he would stop the attack.

She was very scared to do this. There was a law that the king might have you killed if you came to him without asking, but if she didn't tell him, then she and her people would be killed anyway.

Mordecai encouraged her by saying in Esther 4:14 "who knows but that you are here for such a time as this?"

Her cousin is telling her that she may not be in a place that she wants to be, or doing something that she wants to do, but God may have put her in that place, so that she could do something that He needed done. She can't know God's plan, so she needs to bloom where she has been planted.

We are placed along the timeline of history for God's will to be done. His will is for all things to come to Him. It doesn't matter who you are, or how old you are, or where you are, or what you are doing, if you will do what God has put in front of you, He will make the thing he is asking you to do work for good. That thing may not always be what you want to do, and it may not be what you thought you would do, but if you trust God's plan, He will bless you.

I am 10 years old and I am fighting brain cancer for the third time in almost four years. Going to the doctor all the time is not fun. Getting medicine that makes me sick is not fun. Being miles away from my family, and away from my Hot Wheels and video games is not fun.

But, I know that if my family trusts God's plan, He will use everything we are doing to fight cancer and tell people about cancer for good.

Just as Mordecai said to Esther, who knows but that I am here for such a time as this that I might make a difference in something or for somebody and help God's plan.

Who knows but that you are here for such a time as this, so that you hear me, a 10 year-old kid, tell you that you can do the thing that God is going to ask you to do in your life.

The wonderful thing is that you don't have to wonder what your life holds for you. God tells you His plan for you through the book we call the Bible. The Old Testament gives us examples of how God dealt with His people, and we can use those examples to know how he deals with us.

The prophet Jeremiah shared God's message to His children, the Israelites, when he told them in chapter 29 that after they have hardship in captivity, he will bring them out because he has a plan for them.

Starting in verse 11, Jeremiah writes, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you."

You will face trouble and hardship in this world where Satan lives, just like God's people did in another land when He made that promise to them through Jeremiah.

But, just like the Israelites were His people then, we are His people now. He has a plan for you that will give you a future and a hope. God knew you and had a plan for you before you were born.

David writes about that of himself in Psalm 139:16. He said, "Your eyes saw me when I was inside the womb. All the days established for me were recorded in your scroll before they happened."

David knew that God had a plan for him even before he was born, just as God knew you before you born and had a plan for you.

God used Esther, just a teenage girl, to save his people from whom Jesus would be born and save us all. But, she didn't know that was the plan.

God is the gardner of that little tree on the roof. He placed it with purpose. It will not grow very big like most trees do to provide a home for animals. It won't grow strong enough to provide lumber for buildings. It will not grow beautiful flowers for anyone to enjoy.

And, because its roots are shallow, it will not live very long on that roof. But, that seed found the good where it was planted and used it to grow. Maybe it will do nothing more than be a home for bugs to feed birds for just a little while.

Or, maybe it will make a seed that rides the wings of the wind to deep rich soil.

That seed might grow into a tree that is strong and lives long to do all the good things that the first little tree never got to do. God has a plan for that little tree he placed on the roof.

I hope that one day when God puts the thing in front of you that you think you can't do ... or you don't want to do or you didn't plan to do you will remember that you are here for such a time as this when a 10 year old cancer kid put this in your heart - God knew you before you born and has a plan for you that is for good, so bloom where he plants you.