

The GARDEN of HOPE

'And who knows but that you have come to a position for such a time as this?' Esther 4.14

'I am the true vine and you are the branches...

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.' John 15.5

If you have ever wondered what purpose you have in life – your greatest gifts are possibly the ones you take for granted – the ones shaped by your experiences – the ones you believe aren't that important because (you imagine) everyone has them!



When Esther from a poor background was made queen, she had no idea that her position would enable her to liberate her people. When a small boy brought his picnic to the shores of Galilee, he had no idea he would be feeding thousands. When you give your time and thoughtfulness to another – you have no idea how far-reaching your kindness will be. In the bleakest of circumstances, a smile, a helping hand is HOPE.

Lord, be with those
who have the power to change worlds.
Be with those who meet
with rulers and leaders,
who take your presence
into legislation and fight for justice.
Be with those who work unseen
with the poor and the voiceless.

Lord, be with those
who lead your people with dreams
of unity and reconciliation.
Be with us,
who doubt the value of our position
and the influence we have.
'Faith the size of a mustard seed',
that's all you ask.
Let us believe today
and use whatever power we have
for good.

Lord,
it is easy to think
that the little I do
is of no consequence to you,
that the world will not change because of me.

Forgive me for lack of action,
when I fear I'll waste my time
and no-one will see the little I do.

But I do believe I have a choice,
and I have a part to play.
Whether small or big,
it's the part you have given to me;
(my part in the true vine...)

So, Lord,
whatever I can do, I will do.
With your help.