



*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



Esther: Beautiful Jewish woman raised by Mordecai

Mordecai: Esther cousin who adopted her after her parents died

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



Xerxes: King of the Persian Empire. Liked to party. Abdicated responsibility to others. Prideful

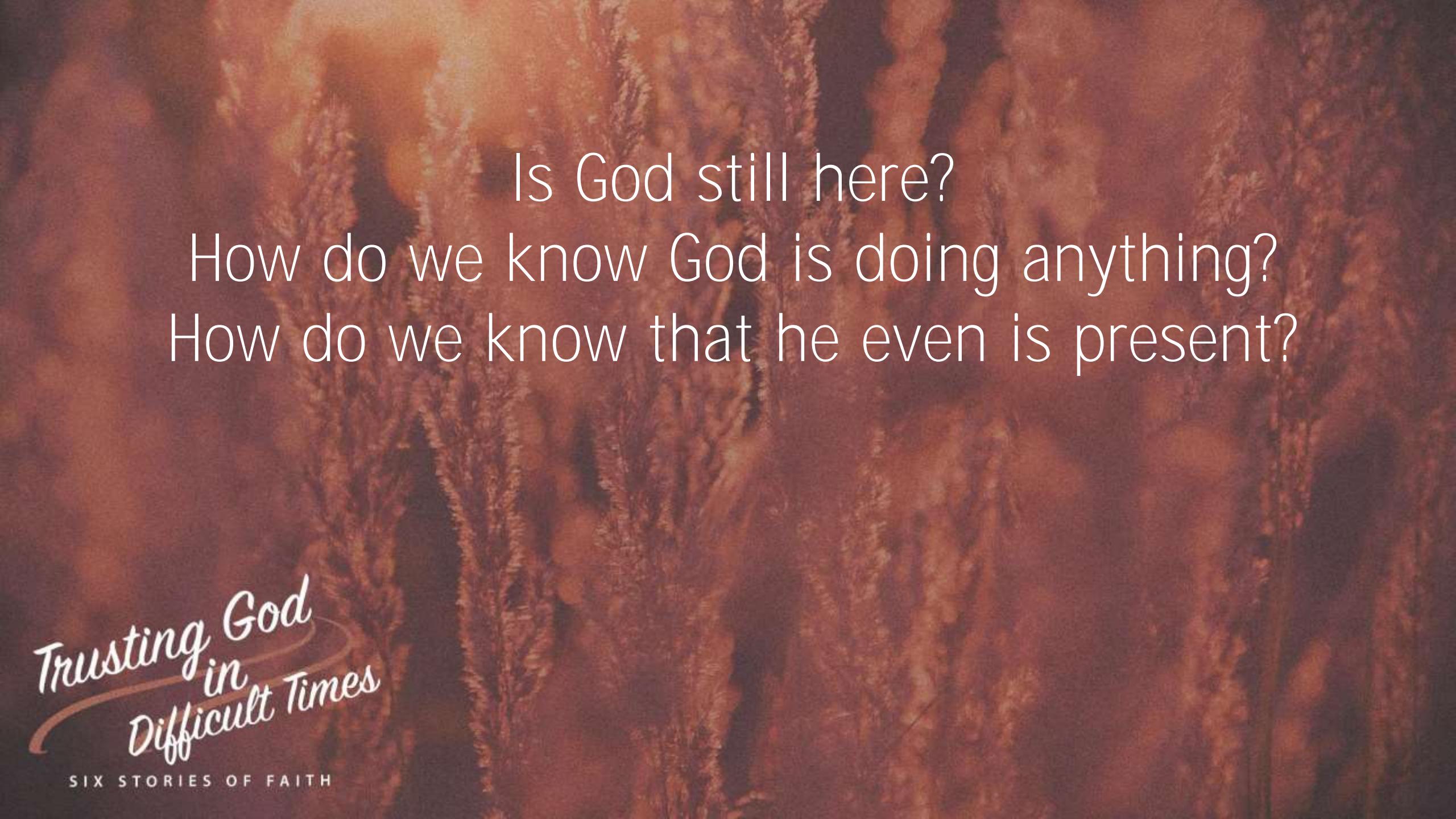
*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



Haman: Persian noble who thought the world owed him.

Really hated people who **wouldn't bow down to him.**



Is God still here?
How do we know God is doing anything?
How do we know that he even is present?

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Esther 1:1-5

This is what happened during the time of Xerxes,
--ruled over 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush:
--his royal throne in the citadel of Susa,
--For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of
his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his
majesty.

*T*rusting God
in
*D*ifficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



Persia 486-465BCE

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

-
- Territories gained by Cambyses II
 Territories temporarily gained by Xerxes I





Jerusalem

Euphrates
River

Tigris
River

Babylon

Susa

Esther 2:7

Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.



*T*rusting in
*G*od
*D*ifficult *T*imes

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Esther 3

Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they **do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury.**

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Esther 4

Do **not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape.** For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you **and your father's family will perish.** *And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Esther 6

Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for
Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect
anything you have recommended.

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



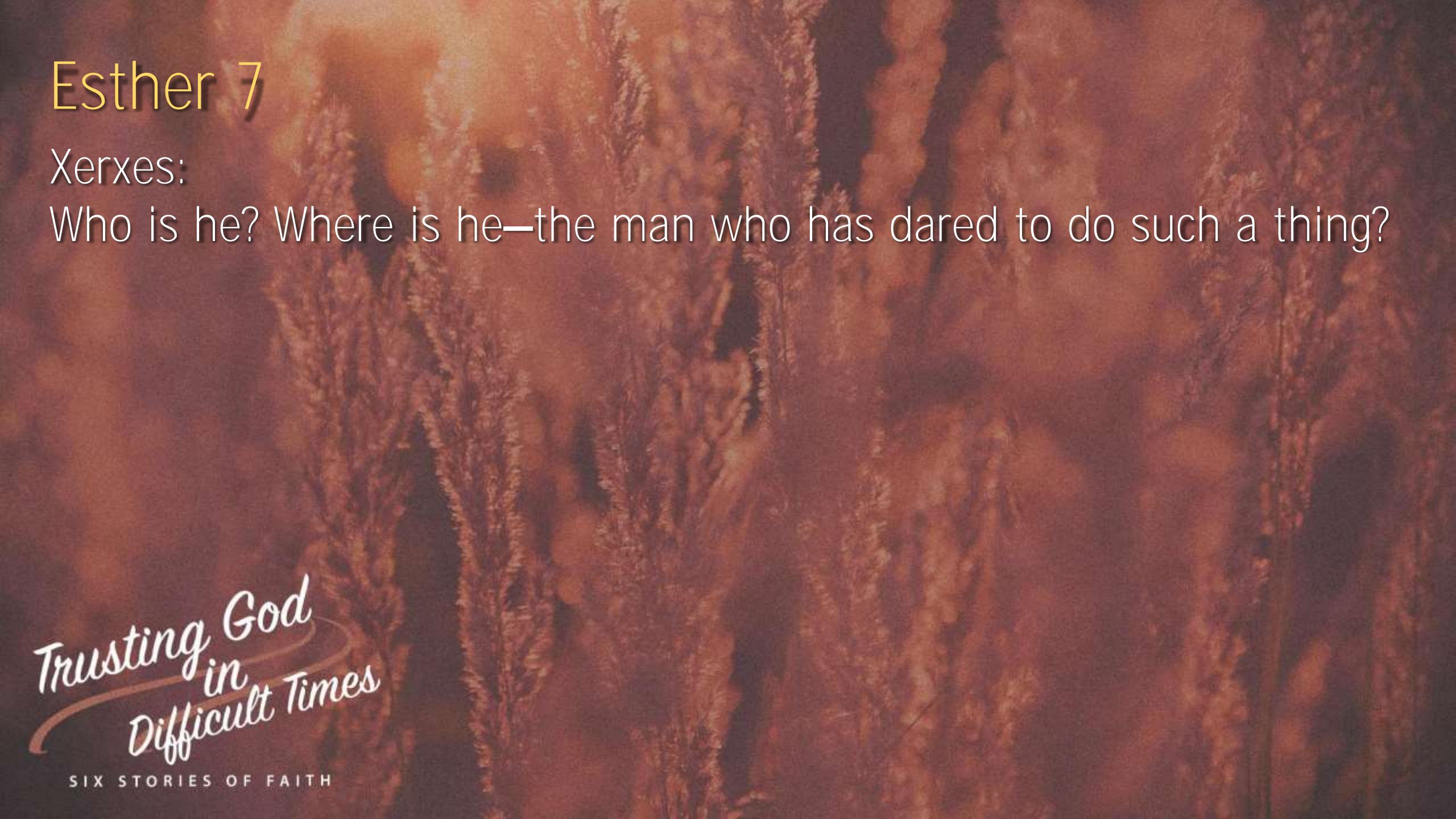
Esther 7

Esther:

If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



Esther 7

Xerxes:

Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Esther 7

Esther:

An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH



What do you call it when God is working but no one is paying attention?

Divine care and direction

“God’s attention concentrated everywhere.”

--Wiersbe

*T*rusting God
*i*n
*D*ifficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Romans 5:1-8

...**suffering** produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. **And hope does not put us to shame, because God's** love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the **ungodly...But** God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Awake Weekend-August 19-21

...**suffering** produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. **And hope does not put us to shame, because God's** love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the **ungodly...But** God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH

Do I trust that God's attention is on
_____?

Jesus ➤ ?

*T*rusting God
in
Difficult Times

SIX STORIES OF FAITH