

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 17TH - 18TH, 2022 // BOOK OF ESTHER

INDIRECT PATH (ESTHER 5:1-8) FOLLOWING THROUGH

Esther's time of preparation was over, it was time for her fear to be replaced with faith.

- God never puts us in positions of opportunity just so we can *consider* doing something or *almost* do something or *maybe* do something. **He puts us in positions of opportunity to be obedient.**

WHATEVER YOU WANT...

Esther had made it; she was still alive. Then, the king asked the best possible question.

- Esther makes an unexpected request: "Come to a banquet and bring Haman." She hadn't changed her mind and she wasn't changing the subject, **she had a plan.**

FASTING AND A TWO-FEAST STRATEGY

Esther's plan may look like a delay tactic. But we have to remember that she had spent three days fasting and praying. **This was God's plan.**

- As we follow Christ, we must be intentional, strategic, and patient. **When He reveals what to do, we should not get lost in what we can't see.**

DISSATISFIED (ESTHER 5:9-14) "FULL OF JOY... FILLED WITH RAGE"

In the time it took Haman to walk from the king's table to the King's Gate, he went from the top of the world to the valley of rage.

- Haman's joy was dependent on his position in the eyes of everyone around him. He wasn't worshiping idols; **he wanted to be worshiped.**

WHAT MAKES ME ANGRY

When we consider what swings us from joy to anger in an instant, we may see our own idols. This is not real joy.

- **Real joy cannot be taken away** (John 16:22). Real joy does not depend on your circumstances, **it comes from your relationship with Jesus Christ.**

HAMAN CONTROLLED HIMSELF

The only way Haman could regain His joy was to tell his wife and friends how great he was in the kingdom.

- It's okay to realize our value, but we must remember and proclaim the source of our significance. **We don't just need God's help; we ask for it.**

NEVER ENOUGH

After listing all his personal assets, accomplishments, and offspring, Haman still wasn't satisfied. **He needed Mordecai to die.**

- What else do we "need"? What price are we willing to pay? **Do we realize that pursuing satisfaction could cost someone their life?**

SLEEPLESS (ESTHER 6:1-5) WHO KNEW?

How could it be that the same night Haman had a gallows built for Mordecai, the king's insomnia would flair up, he would choose just the right journal, and then Haman would be the very one the king asked for advice?

- **Providence... God is always at work for our good and His Glory.**

HONOR (ESTHER 6:6-11) HAMAN'S PRIDE

As the king spoke, Haman could only imagine himself as the one worthy of honor. His pride had dulled all his senses (and anger) as he sought recognition worthy of a king.

- **But Haman was not the king; he was just a man that bribed his way into the palace.**

WHEN THE KING OF KINGS SPEAKS

We should never be so desensitized to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives that we elevate ourselves or anyone else above the glory that only God deserves.

- **Only Christ can pay for us to enter the Kingdom, and we should never forget the price He paid.**

UNTHINKABLE

Haman must have spent some of his night thinking of how good it would be without Mordecai. His answer was quick and detailed, and so was the king's.

- **If we continue in our arrogance, we may find ourselves humbled by events we never imagined.**

HUMILIATION (ESTHER 6:12-14) FROM BAD TO WORSE

After the unthinkable happened, Haman covered his face in shame and hurried home. His wife and friends didn't offer the support he received the night before.

- This was going to be worse than a day of humiliation; Mordecai would be his downfall.

PREPARED FOR THE WRONG THING

Haman had focused on getting himself to the highest position in the kingdom. Suddenly, everything was going in the wrong direction.

- **What are we preparing for? Where do we go when everything starts going in the wrong direction?**

OPPORTUNITY

- Life is full of opportunities. Sometimes they look like forks in the road with no view of what lies ahead.
- **This is not a time for fear; it's a time for prayer, fasting, and faith.**

DECISIONS

- Opportunity always involves a choice. Good or bad, right or wrong, we decide which direction we will go.
- **If worry delays our decisions, we must pray, fast, and trust God's plan.**

OBEDIENCE

- God gives us opportunities to trust His plan so we can enjoy the act of obedience.
- **As we follow Christ, we can experience real joy, peace, and the promise that God's plan is for our good and His glory.**
- **Is the direction of your life honoring God?**