

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2022 // BOOK OF ESTHER

## ESTHER'S PETITION (ESTHER 5:1-8) ESTHER BOLDLY GOES BEFORE THE KING

After 3 days of fasting, Esther appears before the King without being summoned. We must remember the King's track record with his queens that did not adhere to his rules and etiquette.

- The King notices Esther and extends his golden scepter toward her. Not only was her life spared, but the text communicates that "she gained favor in his eyes."

## ESTHER FINDS FAVOR WITH THE KING

The King, being able to see that Esther had not approached him for a social call, asked, "What is it?" He even went as far as saying, "Whatever you want, even half of the kingdom, will be given to you."

- This offer was not to be taken seriously but showed the degree to which favor was found with the King.

## ESTHER PREPARES A BANQUET

Instead of blurting out her request in the royal courtroom, she requests that the King and Haman attend a banquet she prepared.

- In confidence that God guided her steps, Esther prepared the banquet before approaching the King. **It is not enough to have faith alone. We must have faith enough to act** (James 2:26).

## ESTHER PLANS A SECOND BANQUET

The King and Haman attend the banquet. After the meal was finished, the men moved on to wine, and the King made the same offer to Esther to make her request known.

- Esther rephrases her request just a little. By asking, "if it pleases the king to grant my petition," she ensures that her request will be granted if he attends.

## WHY DID ESTHER DELAY HER REQUEST?

It does not appear that fear was the motivational factor in the delay. Perhaps through God-given wisdom, Esther knew it was not the time or place for such a request.

- Amid palace business, the King may have received her accusation as treason or gossip. In addition, it was not acceptable to make such a plea publicly.

## WHY DID ESTHER FURTHER DELAY HER REQUEST?

Esther held the first banquet and delayed her plea to the King because she wanted to ensure that Haman was present when she accused him in front of the King.

- The reason for the second delay was probably not fully understood by even Esther. We see that God would intervene to prepare the King to receive Esther's plea.

## CONSTRUCTING THE GALLOWES (ESTHER 5:9-14) HAMAN'S DAMAGED PRIDE AND EGO

Haman leaves the first banquet and is "full of joy and in good spirits," but quickly is "filled with rage" when he sees Mordecai, who would not honor him and was not in fear of the decree he enacted.

- Though he had been honored by the King and Queen of Persia, the actions of one man were able to rob him of joy.

## HAMAN TRIES TO CONSOLE HIMSELF

Haman controls himself and heads home where he requests the council of his wife and friends.

- He takes the opportunity to brag about his wealth, how many sons he has, how he was honored and promoted by the King, and how he attended a banquet with King and Queen.

## BLINDED BY HATRED AND MALICE

Even with all that Haman possesses that he can brag about, he confesses to his friends and wife that "none of this satisfies me since I see Mordecai the Jew sitting out of the King's Gate all the time."

- Haman is so blinded by hatred and malice that he is unable to see the issue is not Mordecai, but instead, **the issue is the darkness of his own heart.**

## HAMAN TAKES ADVICE AND BUILDS THE GALLOWES

Haman's group of friends reveal a lot about their character by how they respond to their friend's confessed discontent.

- They did not try to get him to be thankful for his position, his possessions, or the people around him. Instead, they encourage him to build a 75' gallows to hang Mordecai on.

## A RESTLESS KING (ESTHER 6:1-9) SLEEPLESS IN SUSAN

The same night Haman has the gallows constructed, the King is having trouble sleeping, so he requests chronicles of his empire be brought to his chambers and read to him.

- These records were known for their dullness, so maybe the king hoped they would cure his insomnia. It is also possible that the King wanted to hear about his accomplishments.

## THE KING'S BEDTIME STORY

While the records were being read to him, the King was reminded of how Mordecai saved him from being assassinated.

- The King asked what was done to honor Mordecai, as it was customary for Persian kings to show great honor in extravagant ways. To his surprise, Mordecai was never shown honor or recognized.

## HAMAN ENDS UP ADVISING THE KING

Haman shows up to get approval to kill Mordecai, but instead becomes the King's advisor. The King asks Haman, "What should be done for the man the king wants to honor?"

- We see that Haman proudly assumed the King was talking about him, so he told the King exactly how he felt he should be honored.

## THE KING SHOWS HONOR (ESTHER 6:10-14) THE GREAT REVERSAL OF HONOR

Haman's advice on how the King should show honor was enacted, but to Haman's surprise, the King was not describing him.

- Haman was ordered to take a garment and horse to Mordecai the Jew, just as he had proposed. The King even advised Haman not to leave out anything he had suggested.

## THE GREAT REVERSAL OF POSITION

Haman did exactly as he was ordered. He got the King's robe and the King's horse, and he dressed Mordecai. Haman paraded Mordecai throughout Susa, shouting, "This is what is done for the man the king wants to honor."

- Haman, for a day, was the servant of the man he wanted to kill and required everyone to bow before the man who refused to bow to him.

## THE GREAT REVERSAL OF Demeanor

Look at how both men were affected by the day's actions. Mordecai returns to the King's gate, unaffected and unchanged by the praise.

- Haman hurries home with his head covered. It is now Haman who is in mourning as if someone close to him had died.

## THE GREAT REVERSAL OF COUNSEL

In 5:14, we see Haman's friends and family goading him into killing Mordecai. They convince him that building a gallows to hang Mordecai from will make him feel better.

- Here, they are singing a different tune and tell Haman that "he would not overcome [Mordecai] and his downfall is certain."

## THE HUMBLING OF HAMAN?

This section ends with Haman being interrupted and rushed to the second banquet prepared by Queen Esther.

- Haman had his "good day" planned out. He would be honored by the King, Mordecai would have to witness this display of honor and then get killed on the gallows, and the day would end with a feast with the King and Queen.

## PREPARATION TO SEE THE KING

- Notice in 5:1 that Esther had to put on her royal clothing before approaching the King.
- We do not have to "prepare ourselves" to go before **THE King. God receives us into His presence as we are.** This doesn't mean that how we live is unimportant, but that **God receives us as we are, then begins to change us as we submit to Jesus in obedience.**

## INVITATION TO THE BANQUET

- Haman felt great honor to be invited to the banquets prepared by the Queen.
- Luke 14:15-24 tells us about a great banquet prepared for all who would accept the invitation.
- **The blessings of the Kingdom are available to all who come to Christ by faith.**

## THE REVERSAL OF MOODS

- Haman quickly goes from being "full of joy and in good spirits" to being "filled with rage." In one instance, because of one individual, Haman's joy was gone.
- **What steals our joy?**
- **The joy the Lord offers to us is something that no one can take away from us!**

## BE HUMBLE OR BE HUMBLD

- When the King asked Haman, "What should be done for the man the King wants to honor?" He very proudly thought, "Who would the King want to honor more than me?"
- Haman thought of himself more highly than he ought (Romans 12:3-8).
- **God humbles the proud** (James 4:6)!