

Esther Series

Revised – August 2010

Good News Bible Studies

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Haman's Pride

Esther 5

Esther's Preparation Will Petition the King's Attention (Esther 5:1-8)

1. "Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite of the entrance to the palace" (Esther 5:1)
 - The reference to the "third day" is most likely taken to mean the third day of the _____.
 - Esther is pretty much on her own as Mordecai had no possible chance at having an audience with the king.
 - Esther appears pretty determined and acts without further delay:
 - 1) We are told that she put on her "royal robes" – what was her purpose in doing this?
 - 2) She intends to be noticed by the king and positions herself in a location where the king would have an un-obscured view of her from his throne.
 - It's important to note that Esther was probably taking a big risk in doing this for Persian culture at the time didn't give equal treatment to women (**just ask Vashti**) and her presence could have been perceived different than intended.
 - This was Esther's one shot and it is clear to me that God is _____ her and she is acting in _____ to His will.

2. “When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter. Then the king said to her, what is troubling you Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half the kingdom it shall be given to you. Esther said, if it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him” (Esther 5:2-4)

- Take note of how the king responded when he saw her:
 - 1) There is no doubt in my mind that she was stunningly beautiful and she clearly was able to get the attention of the king.
 - 2) Her actions were proper and the results were that the king acknowledges her and she finds “favor in his sight”.
 - 3) Some conclude that the king may have sensed that Esther was deeply troubled (and she was) about something and she needed to share this with him.
 - 4) Some conclude that her beauty captured his attention and brought back those feelings he had for her when he chose her as his queen.
 - 5) We are not exactly sure why this went so well for Esther as it could have just as easily had disaster written all over it – our best conclusion is that the Lord had everything under control and working all things according to His will.
- The extension of the scepter by the king showed that Esther was _____ to come into the presence of the king.
 - 1) This is completely contrary to most societies and cultures of today – but in this period of world history, even a queen had her limitations.
 - 2) It is clear that Esther’s _____ and her _____ in the Lord overpowered any fear that she could have been rejected by the king.
 - 3) This was a significant risk for Esther and should not be overlooked – I sense that her confidence was in the Lord. Who do you trust when you face challenges in your life? (Romans 8:26-39)

- Esther does a good job in peeking the king's interest:
 - 1) He senses that something is troubling her and probes a little further as to what she requests of him.
 - 2) Without knowing her wishes he offers her up to half his kingdom – did he really mean that and could Esther have held him to it?
 - Esther doesn't tell the king right away as to what was troubling her, but instead she requests that the king and Haman come to a banquet that she has prepared.
3. "Then the king said, bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, what is your petition as it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done. So Esther replied, my petition and request is; if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says" (Esther 5:5-8)
- The dialogue between the king and Esther is very similar to their previous discussion in that he wishes to know what she wants and he once again offers her half of his kingdom, if she so desired.
 - In this instance the king and Haman had been drinking and Esther may have sensed that the king wasn't in the right frame of mind to hear her request.
 - Esther may also have sensed something from Haman that caused her to wait to tell the king the next day at another banquet she prepared for him.
 - _____ on the Lord is sometimes difficult but the results are always better!
4. We will see in the following passage and the next chapter that the Lord will intervene and we will also witness Esther's obedience and faith. Haman will be overflowing with _____ and King Ahasuerus will be stirred by the Lord in a _____.....

Haman's Pride Will Provoke the King's Awareness (Esther 5:9-14)

1. "Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai." (Esther 5:9)
 - Haman was in high spirits and we are told that he left the meeting with the king and Esther on **top of the world** – He was **"glad and pleased of heart"**.
 - Haman had a sore spot and a real bitter _____ for Mordecai
 - 1) That hatred just completely **vexed his spirit** and made him completely _____.
 - 2) Did this hatred and bitterness benefit Haman in any way?
 - Is hatred and bitterness something we should guard against? (Ephesians 4:31-32)
 - Describe the contrast that you see between the actions and attitude of Haman toward Mordecai and the actions and attitude of a Christ follower. What differences do you see and what Scriptures come to mind that describe this contrast:

2. “Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh. Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the number of his sons, and every instance where the king had magnified him and how he had promoted him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman also said, even Esther let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow I am also invited by her with the king.” (Esther 5:10-12)

- Haman was unable to fully enjoy his new found status so he gathered his family together and spent time bragging about all of the _____ he had amassed and the large family that he had raised and provided for.

- Haman made sure the family knew of his _____ in the government and the benefits that went along with that (i.e. attending the banquet with the king).

- Pride is a _____ thing and Haman’s is all caught up in himself

1) C.S. Lewis wrote; “The essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastely anger, greed, drunkenness and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison; it was through pride that the devil became the devil; Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind.....as long as you are proud you cannot know God at all. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”

2) Pride has a way of _____ our judgment and Haman was no exception

3) It was because of his _____ that Haman missed the big picture as he had no idea who Esther was, nor how she and Mordecai were connected. He was too busy tooting his own horn and it was about to work against him.

- The Scriptures tell us that “Pride goes before _____” (Proverbs 16:18)
- What can we learn from all of this? What are the effects of pride? How can we guard against it?

3. “Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate. Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, have a gallows fifty cubits high made and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with the king to the banquet. And the advice pleased Haman so he had the gallows made” (Esther 5:13-14)
- You can see the progression of Haman’s _____ which is shown is his _____ and _____ toward Mordecai.
 - 1) Each time Haman would see Mordecai he would seethe with anger which is evidence by his desire to have him killed.
 - 2) It is probable that Haman felt that killing Mordecai would remove any organized opposition to his overall diabolical plan to eliminate all Jews.
 - 3) By killing Mordecai – Haman probably felt he would be rid of his enemy forever.
 - Haman’s wife Zeresh and his friends were complicit in the actions to have Mordecai killed as they suggested how best to remove Haman’s sore spot.
 - 1) They suggested that Haman construct a gallows and build it so high (50 cubits or 75 feet high) that everyone from all directions could see Mordecai dead.
 - 2) The gallows in this period of history was more of a “stake/pole” in which the person would be impaled like a spear and left hanging until dead.
 - The hatred and bitterness seemed to control Haman so much that it worked against him as the gallows that he built to have Mordecai killed would actually be used on himself....**stay tuned for this one!**
4. We should not fail to notice or mention that the Lord is sovereignly at work through each and every part of these events – even those actions intended for harm He will accomplish His _____!
5. There will be another major event in history (the crucifixion of Christ) that mankind intended for harm but the Lord will use to redeem those who believe. (Acts 2:22-36)