

BOOK OF
ESTHER



A Tale of Two Plans

Esther Chapter 5

Esther 5:1-8 ESV

1 On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace.

2 And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

Esther 5:1-8 ESV

3 And the king said to her, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom.”

4 And Esther said, “If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast that I have prepared for the king.”

5 Then the king said, “Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked.” So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared.

Esther 5:1-8 ESV

6 And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, “What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

7 Then Esther answered, “My wish and my request is:

8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said.”

Esther's Plan

1: We gain spiritual strength, courage, and boldness as we wait on God and seek Him

+ Esther and others spent 3 days fasting and seeking God's help and deliverance

God gives us strength & perseverance as we seek Him

Isaiah 40:31 ESV

but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 41:10 ESV

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

God gives us boldness & courage as we seek Him

Acts 4:29-31 ESV

29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Esther's Plan

2: God loves for us to come to Him and tell Him our needs and ask.

+ Unlike King Ahasuerus, our Heavenly Father desires we come into His presence.

+ Jesus' death and resurrection make approaching a holy God possible.

Jesus gives us access & confidence to draw near to God

Hebrews 4:16 ESV

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

God invites us to take our concerns / requests to Him

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Esther 5:9-14 ESV

9 And Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he neither rose nor trembled before him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and brought his friends and his wife Zeresh.

11 And Haman recounted to them the splendor of his riches, the number of his sons, all the promotions with which the king had honored him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and the servants of the king.

Esther 5:9-14 ESV

12 Then Haman said, “Even Queen Esther let no one but me come with the king to the feast she prepared. And tomorrow also I am invited by her together with the king.

13 Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.”

14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it. Then go joyfully with the king to the feast.” This idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.

Haman's Plan

1: We need a heart transplant. Without it we are simply slaves to our own “idols” and selfishness.

+ Haman had riches, power, position, but did not have Mordecai's respect.

+ Haman's plan of disproportionate response to Mordecai's lack of respect shows the depth of his pride.

+ Wanting others to recognize him and honor him was an idol in his heart.

We are born with a “heart problem”

Jeremiah 17:9 ESV

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it.

**If by faith we receive Jesus’ offer of salvation,
He breaks through and gives us a new heart.**

Ezekiel 36:26

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh”

**If by faith we receive Jesus' offer of salvation,
He breaks through and gives us a new heart.**

Romans 5:5 ESV

**God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to
us.**

Romans 6:17

**But thanks be to God, that you who were once
slaves of sin have become obedient from the
heart to the standard of teaching to which you
were committed.**

When we turn from our sin and turn to God by faith in Jesus Christ and what He did....here's what happens

He “moves in”, gives us a new heart in Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Our calling, therefore, is to bear fruit out of the abundance of the heart.

Something new is going to come out as an overflow.

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