

Esther-Chapter 5 and 6 - Handout #3

After the fast that Esther called, she put on her royal apparel and went into the inner court of the king hoping he would hold out his golden scepter and save her life. Anyone who came into the royal presence without being called could be put to death unless king held out royal scepter.

Chapter 5

v.1-8 - Favor: Esther finds favor in the king's eyes and he holds out the royal scepter . He asks her what is her petition and promises to grant up to half his kingdom. This is an exaggeration (hyperbole) commonly used, meaning if it is reasonable and within my power I will do what you ask. She invites Ahasuerus and Haman to a banquet she has prepared that very day. During the banquet she is asked again what is her petition, and she only wants to invite him and Haman to another banquet the next day.

v.9-14-Haman at Home: Haman left banquet happy, but when he saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and he neither stood up for him nor moved to show respect, Haman was "full of indignation." Haman went home to his wife, Zeresh, and called his friends around. He was full of himself and began bragging on all he had and all he had accomplished. He was even proud that other than the king, only he was invited to this banquet with Queen Esther. In spite of all that, it meant nothing to him as long as Mordecai continued to sit in the king's gate (or gatehouse) and not show him respect. Zeresh and his friends say make a gallows for Mordecai. The gallows was a stake to display those who had already been killed. Be careful the destruction you create for someone else, because you might be creating your own destruction.

Chapter 6

v.1-3 - Many times we see God show something in a dream, but this time God uses insomnia to advance some knowledge. The king can't sleep so he has his servants read the records of the chronicles (Persian). It is read that Mordecai told of Bigthana and Teresh' plan to kill the king. The king discovers nothing was done for Mordecai. This occurred not far after the king's 7th yr. in which he had made Esther his queen. But now it is the twelfth year of Ahasuerus reign and no reward had been given to Mordecai. Normally, reward was immediately after the praiseworthy deed.

v.4-9- Irony: Haman enters inner court so that he can come to the king and ask him to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he has prepared. King asks him question: what should I do for the man whom the king delights in? Haman thinks its himself so he calls for a great honor to be bestowed. Only it is not him.

v.10-14- The honor is for Mordecai whom Haman was planning for the king to send to the gallows. And Haman has to now honor this man publicly. Haman is humiliated and when he returns home with his head covered in shame and tells his wife and the wise men there what had happened, Zeresh his wife now renders prophesy that Haman will fall before Mordecai and the jews. He then gets the call to come to second banquet which will be his undoing.