

Esther: Time to Cowgirl Up !-Part 2



Second Part in two part lessons called Esther: Time to Cowgirl Up !

A quick review of Part One is helpful. Both lessons have a worksheet that is posted as a devotional or can be downloaded separately.

Introduction:

The Book of Esther is the historical setting of somewhere between 483BC and 471BC in the country now called Iran but was called Persia in that time. King Ahasuerus rules. The Jews had been taken captive a generation or so before his rule. They were now the working poor and servants in the country. Mordecai, a Jew, works at the gate to the Palace where he has been raising his niece. The niece Esther is called upon to take a courageous step of faith that may cost her life. Chapter 5 Queen Esther bites the bullet and goes in to petition the King that can have her killed by simply ignoring her.

Reference: [The Book of Esther](#)

Chapter 5:

Esther 5:6 ...what is thy request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed...

King Ahasuerus loves a party. This is a trait that he never loses in his lifetime. He is reckless with his responsibilities throughout his reign giving power to anyone that he likes at the moment. While this trait has worked to the benefit of the enemy of God's people, that is in Haman's favor, up until Chapter 5 we now see it used by the Lord. Yes, the Lord tells us that the heart of the King is in the hand of God. We see a prime example of this early in today's lesson.

Queen Esther must approach the King if the Jews are to be saved from the decree of death they are under. The King has signed a decree on Haman's word alone that the Jews are rebellious and lawless. Haman simply hated the Jews, a problem of prejudice going back many generations and had persuaded the King to sign a decree for their deaths in just a few more days. The King did not know that Esther, his queen, was a Jew.

For her to approach his throne could be certain death as no one was allowed to approach him without his sending for them; unless he chose to invite them in. King Ahasuerus had a sweet spot for the Queen. She planned her approach to get into the throne room. If she had gone running, screaming, crying, and having a fit to get into to see him she would have been refused in this culture. She had to plan and pray over an approach.

- Step One: Queen Esther put on her royal robes; waits in the court area for him to allow her in.
- Step Two: She invites him to brunch along with Haman. This is a 'baby step' to get him to accept an invitation to supper the following evening and to bring Haman as the guest.
- Step Three: Supper invitation is given and accepted for the following day.
- Step Four: God intervenes.

Haman is so excited that he is going to a supper with the King and Queen that he runs home to tell the wife. On the way he passes Mordecai at the gate & his heart is angry still at Mordecai for not bowing to him.

Haman is not content that he already has a contract out on Mordecai's life and his entire Jewish race; Haman is not content that he is powerful in the Kingdom/ right hand man to the King. Haman wants Mordecai dead and tells his wife this is his greatest desire. She suggests he build a gallows overnight then ask the King to sign another decree tomorrow at the supper to get that done. He has the carpenter's work overtime all night to build the gallows so he can hang Mordecai tomorrow ahead of the Killing Day scheduled already.

But God steps out on the edge of Heaven and intervenes.

Chapter 6:

King Ahasuerus lies down to sleep. Tonight he can't sleep so he sends for someone to get a book for him to have read so he can get sleepy. The attendant brings back the Chronicles of Persia. He "happens" to read from the Chronicles of a man named Mordecai that saved his life by reporting an assassination plot. The King asked so what reward has been given to this Mordecai. Scribe tells him nothing. King says well, we must reward this fellow.

King Ahasuerus gets up the next morning, heads over to the throne room and asks who is hanging out in the courtyard today. Just so happens Haman is out there because he had planned to come in and get a decree signed to get Mordecai hung from the gallows before dark. Oh-oh.

So Haman comes in at the beckoning of King Ahasuerus and of course you take care of the king's business you are summoned for first before asking for your petition. The King proceeds to tell Haman about a man that is wonderful, heroic, a true champion and one that needs rewarded. Now old Haman is so full of himself, he thinks the King is talking about him, Haman. So Haman suggests a big parade for the man, letting him wear the royal robes, and so forth and so on. King Ahasuerus says, great, let's do it for Mordecai. GULP !

Haman had intended to hang Mordecai on the gallows. Instead he has to parade the man through the streets shouting his praises. God has a sense of humor. Not end of story. The chamberlain comes to get Haman for that supper he was invited to yesterday with the King and Queen. Well, maybe the day won't be a total loss for Haman.

Chapter 7:

Esther 7:1-6 So the King and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.....King said unto Esther....What is thy petition, Queen Esther? And it shall be granted.....Then Esther...said....For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish.....Ahasuerus ...said Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.

Well, the King is so mad he isn't going to eat supper now. He stomps out. He needs some space to think before he acts. He has just found out his Queen is a Jew. He has just found out that Haman, his top hand has plotted to kill the Jews which include his wife, and the man Mordecai that had saved his life from an assassination attempt earlier per the Chronicles. He had a lot to think about.

King Ahasuerus takes a walk in the palace garden, the Bible tells us. Haman isn't thinking straight because he has something to be afraid of now. He makes a big mistake: Haman goes running after Esther following her all the way back to her chambers and throws himself on her bed begging for mercy. King Ahasuerus in the meantime, has decided to go talk to Esther about this in more detail and walks into her room and finds Haman spread out on Esther's bed and immediately is offended. That's the last straw. If Haman had any chance of getting by with all this murder plot of killing the Jews it went down the tube. Haman was taken immediately out, hanged on his own personal built new gallows.

Chapters 8-10:

Esther 9:5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword...

Mordecai gets promoted; Queen Esther saves the day; King Ahasuerus learns to think before he says "Where do I sign?" ; God preserves His Chosen People. Additionally, when you read the rest of Esther you see that Esther is signing her OWN DECREES establishing a holiday called Purim for Jews. Women had no rights up until that time in Persia. She accomplished that, too.

But the MOST important thing to learn among MANY from Esther: God will preserve His plans but YOU are a big part of those plans. Sometimes you have to go in by FAITH and if you perish, you perish has to be your attitude. Obedience to God is number one.

The first Obedience to God is accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Have you done that yet? Can't step out by faith in service to Him, if you don't know Him.

Summary:

To learn more about Esther and how you can be a successful Servant of the Lord see:

Worksheet for Lesson is: Devo_14_2011-11-13

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