



Call To War Esther 3:1-15

Are we to be living our best life now? Where does that theology lead?

Matthew 7:7-8 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”

- Pray without ceasing; pray with persistence.
- Rejoice.
- What should we do when trials come?

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

There is a very good reason we use war language in the church. We're in an epic battle!

Esther 3:1-4 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. 2 And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. 3 Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king's command?” 4 And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew.

- Authority and position tests our character.
- Why did Mordecai not bow?
- Could Mordecai have prevented this whole ordeal by simply showing some respect?
- Mordecai had several opportunities to show honor, and did not. So he saves the king, and then does not honor the king's decree.

Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

Esther 3:5-6 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

- Doesn't want to deal with Mordecai alone? Why?
- This reveals Haman's heart. He hates Jews.

Esther 3:7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

- This is around 4 years after Esther becomes Queen.

Esther 3:8-9 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them. 9 If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries."

- "And if it please the king." Always trying to please the king.
- Vastly exaggerates. Satan does. Hitler did. People do today.

Esther 3:10-11 So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. 11 And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

- Who is in charge here?
- Why is Haman blessed...and Mordecai's valiant act from the last chapter unnoticed?

Psalms 73:27-28 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God. I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

- What God is doing is SO much bigger than our immediate reward.

Easter 3:12-15 Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month,

- The day before the celebration of the Passover.

and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring. 13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. 14 A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day. 15 The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

- Total annihilation.
- This is a lifelong, historic battle!

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

- This is to happen a year later from the decree...all to die.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- We got grafted into God's family so we got grafted into the battle as well!

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

- God's people have ALWAYS been persecuted. More now than ever.

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

- Means for destruction is actually means for deliverance.