

Safe Harbor Baptist Church

11-30-2022 Wednesday

Esther Sermon 5 "The God who works behind the scenes"

"*The Courage of Esther*" and "*The Confounding of Haman*"

Text: Esther 5-6

Esther 1- The Character of Vashti.

Esther 2- The Choosing of Esther.

Esther 3- The Commitment of Mordecai

Esther 4- The Choice of Esther.

Esther 5 -The Courage of Esther.

Esther 6- The Confounding of Haman.

Websters 1828 dictionary defines the word "Courage" as Bravery; intrepidity; that quality of mind which enables men to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness, or without fear or depression of spirits; valor;

Truly we see this quality portrayed in throughout life of Esther, but especially in Esther 5.

Vs 1- *Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.*

The opening phrase "Now it came to pass on the third day" points us back to Esther 4:16 where Esther had requested that Mordecai have all the Jews to fast for three days, and Esther and her maidens would also fast for three days in preparation for her standing before the King.

We must remember that Esther, even though she is the Queen she does not have free reign to go before the King anytime she wants to. In fact she was only allowed to go before the King when she was called upon.

She informs Mordecai in Esther 4 that if she went before the king uninvited that by the law he could have her killed. Thus she is taking a great risk, but also a great step of faith for her people in this deed.

The “third day” is also significant in our text.

The third day concluded the three day fast that Esther had requested.

The Third day in the Bible is the day of resurrection life, blessing and glory.

And truly Resurrection life, blessing and glory was about to come to Israel because of the efforts and courage of Esther.

We also note in this verse that Esther made herself ready before she went before the King.

In other words she recognized that she would be standing before royalty and power and she wanted to present herself in a proper manner.

Point: If Esther got prepared to go and stand before a carnal king, how much more should we prepare to go before God, the King of Glory?

We also see in this verse that the king was seated upon his royal throne, in his royal house.

Rod Mattoon describes the Throne room of the king:

Highly columns 65 ft high. The bottom of these pillars were shaped like a bell.

The decorations was that of White, Green, and blue.

The floor was made of red, white, blue and black marble.

This was quite a scene!

Vs 2- *And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

As Esther approaches the throne, she is uncertain whether she will be welcomed, or judged by the king.

But as Esther approached the King looked upon her and the Bible tells us that she obtained Favor (Grace) in his sight.

In doing so he extended the golden sceptre in his hand out to Esther.

She should have been rejected and killed. Why did he receive her?

Proverbs 21:1 *The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

God is working behind the scenes!!!

Vs 3- *Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.*

It is even more amazing in this text that not only did the king receive her, but he offered to meet any of her request up to half of the kingdom.

Meaning that not only did she have access to the King, but the King made himself Available to her!!

What is this?

God is working behind the scenes!!

Application: We see the Gospel in this text, for I was doomed to die without God under his judgement, but I obtained grace in his sight, I was accepted and now he is available to meet my needs when I come before him in prayer!!

Vs 4 *And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.*

What would be the grand scheme of Esther? Inviting the King and Haman over for Supper.

Why did she not just blurt out her problem to the King?

The Timing was not right!

"God is more interested in timing than he is time"- Adrian Rogers

Often times we are guilty of rushing into things and not waiting on the LORD leadership and guidance.

Vs 5 *Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.*

The king accepts the invitation for both he and Haman.

Notice Haman had to "make haste" to do what Queen Esther, the JEW had requested!

Why is this happening this way? This is the same wicked king who exiled his wife?

God is working behind the scenes!!

Vs 6- *And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*

The King once again lays out a “blank check” before Esther, giving her the opportunity to request and ask for anything her hearts desired.

Vs 7-8- *Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;*

8 If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.

Esther responds wisely by requesting that the King and Haman come again the next night to have another banquet and then she would reveal her request.

Why is Esther doing this in this manner?

She is using wisdom, and gaining more and more favor with the King.

Vs 9-10 *Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.*

Haman is on his way home, with his belly full and his heart merry after the Queens banquet.

But as he is going Haman saw Mordecai and Mordecai once again did not and would not bow to Haman and would not even move out of his way!

Haman went from glad to mad in about 3 seconds!

Vs 10 *Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.*

Why didn't Haman kill Mordecai then?

It was a Persian law that anyone who sat under the Kings gate was kept safe under the protection of the king!

If you attacked someone sitting under the king's gate in essence you were attacking the King.

Vs 11 *And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.*

Haman comes home to his wife and their friends and Haman begins to brag about all the possessions and riches that he enjoys since he has been promoted.

He is full of arrogance and pride!

Vs 12-13 *Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.*

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

He also brags about the fact that he and the King were invited to the Queens home for not just one, but two consecutive banquets!

Beware of those who constantly brag!

We find out that riches and possessions does not satisfy a bitter and angry person!

Haman has all these earthly possessions but he is still full of wrath and anger because Mordecai is standing tall!

Vs 14- *Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*

The wickedness of Haman was not only in Haman but also in his wife and friends because we find them suggesting that the gallows upon which the Jews would be hanged should be made fifty cubits high.

A cubit is about 18inches, making the gallows about 75ft high.

They also suggest that at the before banquet the next day that Haman should request that Mordecai be hung and killed.

Mordecai loved the sound of this!

Esther 6

Vs 1- *On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

Notice on “that night” the very same night that Haman’s wife and friends said that Mordecai should be hung the next day we note that the King cannot sleep and so he request that the “chronicles” (records) be brought before him to be read.

Vs 2- *And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*

As they are reading the records they get to the part where in Esther 2 Mordecai had reported the plot of Bigthana and Teresh to assassinate the king.

Vs 3- *And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.*

The king is reminded of this and asked what was done for Mordecai in this manner, to which the servants reply that no appreciation had been shown to Mordecai for his informing.

Vs 4- *And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.*

The king searching for advisors and council asked who was in the court.

It just so happened that Haman was in the king’s court and he was on his way to request that Mordecai should be hung on the gallows.

Vs 5-6 *And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.*

6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?

The king asked Haman for his opinion about what should be done to and for a man that the king delighted to honour?

Haman being a man of pride and ego thought that the king was speaking of him.

Vs 7-9 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,

8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:

9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

Haman goes into this elaborate list of things that he wants done to him, because he is full of pride and ego.

He wants to be lifted up and praised.

Vs 10-12 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.

11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.

You can't make this stuff up!!

The king hears Haman's idea and loves the idea and commands Haman to go and do everything he had just said to Mordecai, the Jew.

And notice he said “let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken”

In other words he said “don’t miss anything”.

To add insult to injury Haman had to drive the kings chariot around with Mordecai on board and Haman was to declare “*Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.*”

Vs 12-14 *And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house mourning, and having his head covered.*

13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.

14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hasted to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

The tables are turning the book of Esther.

Even the wicked wife and friends of Haman could tell that someone was working behind the scenes!!!

Practical lessons from Esther 5 & 6

1. We have access before the King of Glory. Esther 5:1-3

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Fellowship before Favors. Esther 5:4-8

Spend time with the king before you request anything.

3. Show me your friends and I'll show you yourself. Esther 5:9-14

Haman had friends that agreed with his sin and encouraged his sin.

4. Sometimes it takes time. Esther 6:1-3

Mordecai did right in Esther 3, but it took time (5 years) to receive appreciation.

5. Pride is Presumptuous. Esther 6:4-9

Haman automatically thought that appreciation and praise should go to him!

6. It pays to do what is right! Esther 6:10-14

At the end of the day Mordecai was honored for doing right!

The king was a wicked man and deserved to die, but it was not the place of these 2 men to kill him.

Do right and God will bless you!