

February 21, 2024 – Sermon Notes

“How Things Can Change Overnight” Esther 6:1-14

Prel Rmks

Text ~ Title

(1) That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. (2) And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. (3) Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." (4) So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had *just* entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. (5) The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." (6) So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" (7) And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, (8) let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. (9) Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!' " (10) Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken." (11) So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!" (12) Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. (13) When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him." (14) While they *were* still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

INTRO

Review:

1. Haman ... was a mortal enemy of Mordecai ... who would not bow ...
2. Haman had talked Ahasuerus into letting him issue an edict ...
3. Mordecai prompted Esther to seek an audience with King A.
4. King A said he would grant whatever Esther requested ...
5. She asked for the King and Haman to attend a banquet ...
6. At the banquet, she asked them to attend a 2nd banquet the next day
7. Haman had gallows built to hang Mordecai.
8. Haman went to bed that night and dreamed sweet dream ...
9. Mordecai slept that night not knowing the evil plot against him ...

Psalms 121:4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

We begin tonight, with someone else who didn't slumber or sleep.

I. A Cure for Insomnia 1-3

(1) That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles written records; and they were read before the king.

Persians were famous for keeping meticulous records – archives

“Let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and Medes” – 1:19

{White House photographer – videographer}

Chronicles = historical record – chronology

No specific record was requested ... just grab a scroll from the shelf

Purpose: monotonous reading ...

(2) And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

Not by chance - they found the record of what happened in 2:21f

Esther 2:21-23 In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. **(22)** So the matter became known to Mordecai, who

told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. **(23)** And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

What are the chances?!

(3) Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

There's a reason a king would want to honor someone ...

Mordecai would have been hanged at sunrise had they not found ...

The king was still awake! The cure for his insomnia hadn't worked.

A Cure for Insomnia

II. A Counselor With No Clue 4-9

(4) So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had *just* entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. **(5)** The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." **(6)** So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" **(7)** And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, **(8)** let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. **(9)** Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!' "

1. It seems like Ahasuerus always needed an advisor ...
2. Haman shows up – probably at the crack of dawn – giddy ...
3. The King asks him in – 6a
4. Haman is so self-absorbed he is clueless – 6b
5. Haman described the kind of honor he would want for himself and at the same time he showed his political savvy by buttering up the king:
 - a. Give him a royal robe the king had worn
 - b. Place him on a horse the king had ridden – with a royal crest
 - c. Let the robe and horse be delivered by one of the King's most noble princes

- d. Parade – thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.
- 6. Haman was beside himself. Intoxicated with himself. Dizzy with the very idea of being glorified in that way!

But he didn't have a clue!

III. A Crazy Turn of the Tables 10-14

(10) Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

Can you imagine what Haman's reaction must have been ...

But he had no choice but to do it

(11) So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

What a reversal of outcomes!

Instead of going to be hanged ...

(12) Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate.

But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

(13) When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him,

They told him: "You're sunk! You've had it! You're time at the top is up!"

his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

They were right!

(14) While they *were* still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

What a turn of the tables!

Implications / Applications

- 1. All the things that worked together to spare Mordecai's life:**
 - a. Mordecai overheard the doorkeepers plot
 - b. He reported it ...
 - c. It was recorded in the chronicles ...

- d. Esther delayed telling the King her request ...
- e. He suffered insomnia and called for the Chronicles ...
- f. The one sent to retrieve the Chronicles grabbed the account ..

Truth is stranger than fiction! You couldn't make all of that up.

It is actual history of how God intervened.

There is no way after this that Haman could go forward with his plan to ask the king to hang Mordecai.

It's going to get much worse for Haman!

2. Our God is a God of justice! No one ever gets away with anything!

Psalms 37:28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psalms 103:6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.

Proverbs 29:26 Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man comes from the LORD.

Isaiah 30:18 ... For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Isaiah 61:8 "For I, the LORD, love justice ...

3. There is a sudden turning of the tables coming for many some day:

Luke 16:24-25 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'
(25) But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.'

Lord, Lord!

4. God keeps records, too!

Revelation 20:12, 15 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ... **(15)** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.