

Esther 5

Gallows to hang on

For such a time as this—w/o invitation—plead for Jews against Haman's evil plot that king agreed w/--edit Medes & Persians unbreakable **godlike**.

1 Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace. 2 And it happened when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter. 3 Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it will be given to you."

Esther in faith stood there fearing (**fear a feeling** (if I perish I perish) **faith an action**). Not always what we expect because God does abundantly above all we ask or think. Ahasuerus was surprised to see her not reluctant or angry but happy. Showing up not a bother to others as we might think '**oh I don't want to trouble them**' '**They might not want to see me**' But the opposite—It's not always what we think about ourselves or what others think about us but what we think others think about us" Perception is often wrong as here—**Chuck house on NS--**

Not only glad to see her but ½ kingdom—overjoyed to see—maybe king was reluctant to express himself wanting it to come from Esther...& it did. "**Up to half the kingdom**" is an ancient idiom of hyperbolic generosity meaning a king is willing to grant immense rewards or fulfill any reasonable request. Originating from Persian royal courts, documented in the Bible to signal supreme favor and boundless liberality. Rabbi Rashi 11C AD authored comprehensive commentaries on the Talmud & Hebrew Bible—1/2 of kingdom up to site of holy temple **Quote**

4 And Esther said, "If it please the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him." 5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

Esther 5

Gallows to hang on

We are to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves when dealing w/ difficult situations and difficult people—*Eccl 10:10 If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success....Profitable to direct how to manage some men that are hard to deal w/ and to take them by the right handle'*

6 And, as they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your petition, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done." 7 So Esther answered and said, "My petition and my request is: 8 if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I shall prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

Was Esther sensing the time not right, failure of faith, prudence (the practical wisdom to make sound, cautious, & farsighted judgments in order to avoid risk, manage affairs effectively, & achieve long-term goals w/o unnecessary regret). More prayer, Revelation

Maybe to further win Kings favor—"Quick to ask can result in a quick denial" it's best to wait--then act. Primarily God's providence beyond reason. Esther, Mordecai, Haman & the king didn't know why...*God's ways are not mans ways and are beyond finding out....*We will see why in next chapter. As people sleep God is at work....*He never slumbers nor sleeps Ps 121:4...* But keeps watch over His people.

God at work to exalt one & debase another....bring Haman to utter humility & Mordecai to extreme favor. Providence is God actively working to bring about his purposes.....out of sight of man.

9 Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.10 Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house, and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh. 11 Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the number of his sons, and every instance where the king had magnified him, and how he had promoted him above the princes and servants of the king. 12 Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king."

Esther 5

Gallows to hang on

Haman is impressed w/ himself—he is his own greatest admirer. Lots of personal pronouns flattering himself but it'll be short lived. In reality self-flattery is self-deception.

A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin. A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive

Haman thought Esther was impressed w/ him, wanting to be around him, enamored w/ who he was as kings right hand man. All the while Esther was feeding his ego, his self love ultimately revealing who he really was & his plot to destroy the Jews. He thought she was honoring him but in reality she was exposing him... *Pr 23: 1 When you sit down to dine with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; 2 And put a knife to your throat, if you are a man of great appetite. 3 Do not desire his delicacies, For it is deceptive food.*

13 “Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.” 14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, “Have a gallows fifty cubits high made and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it, then go joyfully with the king to the banquet.” And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

Mordecai didn't give in to the intimidation of Haman and stand in honor and reverence when he passed by. He sat when Haman passed & stood for his own integrity all the while Haman seethed w/ anger & revenge on his face. Honor given Haman by King was nothing to the small thing eating him alive—the only thing Haman thinks about. *Pr 25:27 It is not good to eat much honey, Nor is it glory to search out one’s own glory.* But those who walk uprightly, walk securely. Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. As we wait upon the Lord time will prove those in the right & exposes wrong doers.

Esther 5 Gallows to hang on

The higher some see themselves the harder they are to live w/. Haman recounts his greatness & special favor w/ King & Queen, gathers his supporters & his wretched wife comes up w/ an idea; build gallows 75 feet high to hang Mordecai, a spectacle before the citizens & greater disgrace on him. All the while you will feast w/ the King and Queen Esther—Her counsel is premature vengeance before appointed edict. *“Oh what a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive’ Sir Walter Scott.* So Haman’s conscience relieved he can sleep peacefully expecting Mordecai hanged next day & him banqueting w/ Ahasureus & Esther. He is in for a big surprise. ***Pr 26:27 If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself. If you roll a boulder down on others, it will crush you instead. NLT***