

Esther - Week 11

Haman: “What’s For Dinner?”

Esther 5:1 ON THE third day [of the fast] Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the royal or inner court of the king's palace opposite his [throne room]. The king was sitting on his throne, facing the main entrance of the palace. 2 And when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight, and he held out to [her] the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near and touched the tip of the scepter. 3 Then the king said to her, What will you have, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of the kingdom. 4 And Esther said, If it seems good to the king, let the king and Haman come this day to the dinner that I have prepared for the king. 5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to come quickly, that what Esther has said may be done. 6 So the king and Haman came to the dinner that Esther had prepared. 7 And during the serving of wine, the king said to Esther, What is your petition? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom, it shall be performed. 8 Then Esther said, My petition and my request is: If I have found favor in the sight of the king and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the dinner that I shall prepare for them; and I will do tomorrow as the king has said. 9 Haman went away that day joyful and elated in heart. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate refusing to stand up or show fear before him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

- For the rest of God’s agenda, He is stuck with **imperfect** people.
- Ok, now that we understand our imperfections and **embrace** them, we’re qualified to accomplish whatever God chooses to do through us.

Six Questions for Us to Ask Ourselves:

1. Is there any area in my life where I’m refusing to **obey** God?
2. In times of crisis, how far down my reaction list do I go before I begin to **pray**?
3. Do I have a tendency to **store** trouble, or do I have someone who I can share with?
4. As a believer, do I really believe that I have access to the **Father** through Jesus?
5. How often am I **grateful** that Christ is praying for me every day?
6. Have I learned how to see **everything** from the hand of God?

- Our plans must involve a walk of **faith** that relies totally on God.
- How will this development happen in the life of a believer? We have to put **feet** to our faith.
- Esther’s prayer and fasting led her to develop **faithfulness** in trusting God’s plan.

- God never puts us into a position of faith and **opportunity** for us to consider doing it, or maybe doing it, or almost doing it. He puts us there to teach us that His strength is **sufficient** for the assignment.
- Faith and obedience will always cause us to **experience** God's favor, and His presence.
- Mordecai gives her the **instructions**.
- Four **forces** are working against the plans of Haman:
 1. The **sovereignty** of God
 - It not enough for us to pray and hope God will work.
 - Someone has to put **faith** to work. Esther did!
 - Christians never walk by **blind** faith. The promises of God will sustain us until God reveals just what His plans are.
 2. His own **pride**
 3. **Self-confidence**
 4. His hate and **malice**

Final Thought:

"If you don't want the Devil to get your **goat**, don't let him know where you tie it." Sam Cathey