

Esther - Week 5

I Need a New Queen

Esther 2:1 Later when the anger of King Xerxes had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. 2 Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. 3 Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful girls into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. 4 Then let the girl who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it. 5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, 6 who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. 7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.

- Esther's Hebrew name was **Hadassah** which means "myrtle".
- Ira Stankey said "Everything is in **Jesus** and Jesus is everything."
- We get caught in the crossfire between **wisdom** and foolishness.
- **Arrogance** believes "I can really make good decisions without asking God."
- The book of Esther is filled with **divine** moments.
- They will occur when **decisions** or encounters or action are pivotal to God's story line that we must see and learn from.
- Every decision in our lives is either God-directed or **self-directed**.
- At times, walking by **faith** is the most logical thing you can do.
- We are going to introduce two new players in this story.
 1. Mordecai, who adopted Esther as a child, and
 2. Haman, a Jew hater
- Mordecai stayed put, and staying **put** is a lot better than running off in the wrong direction when circumstances are not really good.
- Major Ian Thomas the great revivalist from England says: "Haman represents for us the **flesh** without Christ. Mordecai represents the **Holy Spirit** that dwells in every believer."
- The lesson of the book of Esther might be just this simple: Mordecai had to get the **wrong** man out (Haman) so the right man could go in.

- For us as **believers** we must get the right man in, in order to get the wrong man (flesh and sin nature) out.

Who is going to be the King?

- The flesh wants that job. Bob taught us that we have to **starve** the flesh until it is “out”, and God is in charge.
- The picture in Eshter is Mordecai representing the Holy Spirit, teaching us to be God-directed and filled afresh and anew by **cleansing** the temple we dwell in.
- Our prayer is God’s Spirit will so **encase** our lives that He will direct our steps, bringing us to a time of cleansing, so that our lives can and will be used by God.
- I believe Mordecai is a great picture of true **discipleship**.
- The problem we at times face may look like this: I strive to work **for** Christ, to be pleasing to Him. That is not necessarily wrong, it just misses the true point of allowing Christ to work **through** me.
- We trade our poverty for Christ’s wealth and our **weakness** for Christ’s strength.
- We also see the **relentless** war being waged in the soul of man between good and evil, between God and Satan.

Final Thoughts:

2 Cor 11:3 But [now] I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent **beguiled** Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be **corrupted and seduced** from wholehearted and sincere and **pure devotion** to Christ AMP