

February 28, 2024 – Sermon Notes

“What a Difference a Day Makes”

Esther 7:1-10

Prel Rmks

Text ~ Title (How Things Can Change Overnight)

INTRO

- Haman had become angry because Mordecai would not bow to him.
- Rather than having Mordecai killed, he **tricked** the King into allowing him to issue an edict to have all the Jews in the entire empire, which stretched from India to Africa, destroyed, killed, and annihilated.
- This genocide was scheduled to happen on a single day – the 13th day of the 12th month, the month of Adar – which was about 11 months away ...
- Mordecai got word to Esther that she must try to get an audience with the king and try to intercede for her people.
- She was hesitant at first, because it had been 30 days since the King had called for her, and she didn't know if she had fallen out of favor with him. Anyone who approached the King and was not received by him could be put to death.
- But when Mordecai asked her a second time, she agreed to do it if he would gather as many Jews as possible and fast and pray for her that the king would be receptive. She did the same with her maids.
- As it turned out, the King did receive her and even told her he would give her anything she requested up to half his kingdom.
- She asked that the King and Haman join her in a banquet she had prepared for them.
- At the banquet, for some unknown reason she asked that the two of them come back to another banquet the next day and she would let her request be known.
- When Haman left the banquet, he was thrilled with what seemed to be his good standing with the royal family. But he could not stand that Mordecai would not bow to him. When he shared this with his family and friends, they advised him to build gallows and have Mordecai hanged the next day. So, he commanded that the gallows be built.
- Meanwhile, overnight, the King couldn't sleep and commanded that the chronicles of the Kingdom be brought and read to him to help make him sleepy.

-In God's providence, when they began to read to Ahasuerus, they read from the record where Mordecai had uncovered a plot to assassinate him and reported it through Esther to the King, so the plot was thwarted, and the would-be assassins were executed.

-After discovering that Mordecai had never been honored for this, Ahasuerus asked Haman what he should do for a man he wanted to honor. Haman had showed up early for work to ask permission to have Mordecai hanged on the gallows he had built.

-Haman thought the King wanted to honor him, so he described for the King an over-the-top plan for honoring a man. The King liked his proposal, and in a comical twist, told Haman to do that for Mordecai. So the man he had hoped to have hanged, he ends up leading through the streets and announcing the King's honor upon him.

-After the time of honoring Mordecai was completed, Mordecai went back to work and Haman went home in humiliation and poured out his troubles to his wife and friends. They told him he was in BIG trouble.

-Esther 6:14 While they *were* still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

-We pick up the story in chapter 7 at that point.

What a Difference a Day Makes

I. A Repeated Event 1-2

(1)

So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.

(2)

And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your **petition**, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your **request**, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

Third time – 5:3,6

II. A Revealed Enemy 3-6

(3)

Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, **let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.**

Ahasuerus is still in the dark

So she begins to explain

(4)

For **we have been sold**, my people and I, to be **destroyed**, to be **killed**, and to be **annihilated 3:13**. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, **although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss.**"

Esther 3:9 If it pleases the king, let *a decree* be written that they be destroyed, and **I will pay ten thousand talents of silver** into the hands of those who do the work, to bring *it* into the king's treasuries."

"the enemy is not equal to the damage of the King"

(5)

So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

He still doesn't know – Joe Biden-like

This is what they had prayed and fasted for – discernment

(6)

And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy *is* this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

Can you imagine?

III. A Reversed Ending 7-10

(7)

Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine *and went* into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.

(8)

When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther *was*. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I *am* in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

No due process ~ no day in court

This is what it's like under the rule of a tyrant – tyrannical government

(9)

Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

Second indictment against Haman

(10)

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

Psalms 9:15-16 The nations have sunk down in the pit *which* they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. **(16)** The LORD is known *by* the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah

Why did Esther not have mercy?

John Whitcomb quote

Tyranny – poster

Xi Van Fleet – Cultural Revolution in China 40 to 80 million

Illegal aliens in military for path to citizenship

Government institutions of justice weaponized

Peter Navarro – 4 months in jail

How has this happened?

Hillsdale College course ...