

Esther 5

Verses 1- 4

Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner courtyard 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 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the courtyard, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther approached 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? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you." ⁴ Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner courtyard 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.

By going to the king on the 3rd day this guaranteed that all of the Jews in Susa were still in the act of fasting and prayer for her.

² When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the courtyard, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the top of the scepter.

The dangerous part was done and now she could put her plan into action.

³ Then the king said to her, "What is *troubling* you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you." ⁴ Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

Another king gave a similar promise to a woman in the 1st century.

See Mark 6:23

²¹ An opportune day came when Herod, on his birthday, held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders, and the leading people of Galilee; ²² and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you." ²³ And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you, up to half of my kingdom." ²⁴ And she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."

The king had to know that Esther had something of great importance to tell him because she would not have risked her life for anything else, but he was willing to attend the banquet and wait for her request. Esther planned the banquet in order to get Haman in the king's presence before she revealed her secret.

Verses 5 - 8

⁵ Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly so that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared. ⁶ As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your request, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your wish? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be done." ⁷ So Esther replied, "My request and my wish is: ⁸ if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request and do what I wish, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

⁶ As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your request, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your wish? Up to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

The king had patiently waited for her request but now it was time for her to make it known.

⁷ So Esther replied, "My request and my wish is: ⁸ if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request and do what I wish, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

Making the King wait another day could have angered him so why did Esther wait another day to make her request known? Was this part of some plan?

Verses 9 - 14

⁹ Then Haman went out that day joyful and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai at 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, and went to his house. But he sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

¹¹ Then Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and his many sons, and every *occasion on* which the king had honored him and how he had promoted him above the officials and servants of the king. ¹² Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one except me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king. 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 wooden *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 wooden *gallows* made.

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Haman had riches, he had many sons, he had been honored by the king many times and he was the chief minister of the greatest monarch in the world at that time but he is overwhelmed by the slight of this one man.

This would be like a billionaire always complaining that others have treated him unfairly and wanting to take revenge on his enemies. Who would do such a thing?

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Birds of a feather flock together. Haman's wife and all of his friend saw no problem with Haman hanging a man and then going to enjoy a good meal with the king.