

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Esther- Part 4

When we last left our study on the book of Esther, we learned that the Queen had invited the King and Haman to not one, but two, private dinners. Queen Esther was planning to ask the King to save the lives of her people. Remember, Haman had sent out a command to have all of the Jewish people living in Persia killed. Before we see what happened at the dinners and if the King helped the Jews, though, let us take a look at some very interesting events that took place after the Queen invited them to the first dinner.

After receiving the invitation from the Queen, Haman became very proud. He went home that night and bragged to his family and friends about all of his possessions, the times that the King had complimented him, and about the special dinner invitation from the Queen. Even though he had so many things going for him, he remained unsatisfied because Mordechai would not bow to him. His wife, Zeresh, and his friends offered this suggestion:

Esther 5:14 “...’Let a gallows fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it. Then go joyfully with the king to the feast.’ This idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.”

So, not only was Haman planning on having all of the Jews murdered at the hands of the Persian people, he also wanted to have Mordechai hung on the gallows in his front yard...and this made him happy! How horrible, huh?

Meanwhile, back at the palace, the King could not sleep. So, he decided to have the chronicles read to him. Do you remember us mentioning the chronicles? It was kind of like a diary for the king. Anyway, as he was being read to, it came to the part where Mordechai warned him about Bigthana and Teresh’s plan to kill him. The King asked what reward Mordechai had received for saving his life. His servants answered that no reward had been given to him. At that exact time, Haman entered the outer courts to ask the King for permission to kill Mordechai. Before Haman could ask him, though, the King asked Haman what he should do for the man he desired to honor.

Esther 6:7-9 “And Haman said to the king, ‘For the man whom the king delights to honor, let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king’s most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.”’”



The King agreed with this idea. Guess which “noble official” was to lead Mordechai through the streets, announcing he was being honored by the King? If you guessed “Haman”, you are correct! As you can imagine, Haman was humiliated. In his arrogance, he had assumed that he was the man who was to be honored by the King. To his dismay, though, it was his enemy, Mordechai, who was to receive the King's blessings. So, instead of getting permission to have Mordechai killed, he was commanded to have him honored.

Have you ever got a good grade, did well in a sport, or received a compliment and then thought that you were a little bit better than others or that there was something extra special about you? Have you ever been jealous when someone else did well, received a compliment, or was honored and then thought you deserved the recognition, instead? Both situations are examples of thinking more highly of yourself that you should, just like Haman did- Ugh!

Romans 12:3 *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”*

God tells us that we are to be humble and consider others more important than ourselves. A believer in Jesus Christ is supposed to be living a life that reflects the love of God, not the love of self. We are not to be living for the praise and admiration of people, but for the approval of our Father in Heaven.

Philippians 2:3 *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”*

Colossians 3:23 *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”*

God loves us and He knows what makes us unique because He created us. He gave us the talents and skills we have in order to be used by Him for His plan. These talents and skills are to be used for the benefit of others, though, and never to be a source of pride and arrogance.

Philippians 2:13 *“for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure”*