

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Esther- Part 3

When we last left our study, Haman had just sent out a command, on behalf of King Xerxes I, that on a specific day the people of Persia would be allowed to kill all of the Jews and take their possessions. As you can imagine, there was great sadness and fear among the Jewish people in Persia. Mordechai, too, was mourning at the palace gates and Queen Esther's maidens told her about it. She had not yet heard about the evil command, so Queen Esther sent one of the palace workers, Hathach, to find out why her cousin was so sad. Mordechai gave him a copy of Haman's awful order and sent a message to Queen Esther telling her to go talk to the King and try to stop this horrible thing from happening. She responded this way:

Esther 4:11 *"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."*



Mordechai reminded her that if she did nothing, all of the Jews would be killed. Also, it would not remain a secret forever that she was Jewish, and she, too, would be killed. Esther listened to what Mordechai said and decided to go see the King, even if it meant that she would be put to death as punishment for going to see him uninvited. Esther, her maidens, and all of the Jews in Susa fasted for 3 days. After the 3 days, Esther went to the inner courts where the King's throne was located. When the King saw her, he extended his golden scepter to her, welcoming her to speak to him (phew).

Were you nervous? We bet she was. Doing the right thing can be really scary sometimes, especially when it goes against what the world tells us to do. If we are obeying God's commands, though, we can be confident that He will protect us.

Psalm 121:7-8 *"The Lord will keep you from all harm- He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."*

Ok, back to the story- the King asked Queen Esther what was wrong and what she needed from him. He told her that whatever she asked for, even up to half the kingdom, he would give her. So, she told him everything Haman was planning and begged him to save her people, right?... Right? Nope. She invited both the King and Haman to a private dinner. You may be thinking that this really is not the time for a nice meal, she needs to ask him for help, immediately! Well, she obviously had a plan. So, she hosted a dinner for both men and then she told the King everything Haman was planning and begged the King to save her people, right?... Right? Nope. She asked them to come back for another private dinner the next night! What?! Is it fair to say that this does not make any sense?

We will not always understand what God is doing in our life or in the lives of others. Sometimes it just really does not make any sense... to us. God knows everything, though: everything that has already happened, that is happening right now, and that will happen in the future. He knows all things about every person that has ever been born, or will ever be born, in every country, and for all of time.

Isaiah 46:9-10 *“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please’.”*

Psalms 33:13-14 *“From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from His dwelling place He watches all who live on earth.”*

So, you see, all the things in this life that just do not make sense to us- well, they all make perfect sense to God. We must learn how to trust Him. The only way to learn how to trust someone, though, is to get to know them. We can get to know God by reading our Bibles and praying. The more we learn about how wonderful He is and the more we see Him work in our lives, the more we will love Him and trust Him. Once we love and trust Him, we will confidently obey Him, living our lives for Him, no matter what He asks of us. We will have courage to live our lives as He instructs, even when it is the exact opposite of how our friends live. We will not be afraid to stand out, though, because we will know that God, the Creator of the Universe, is right there by our side. Then, we will be like Queen Esther- doing things that do not make sense to others, unafraid of what the world thinks, but knowing that we are right where God wants us to be.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*