

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Esther- Part 5

At the end of our last lesson, we saw how proud Haman became after Queen Esther invited him to the private dinners with her and the King. We read how he had gallows built to have Mordechai die on and went to the palace to get the King's permission to kill him. Before he could ask, though, the King asked him for a suggestion on how to honor someone. Haman arrogantly assumed it was him whom the King wanted to honor and then was commanded to use his suggestion to help the King honor Mordechai, instead.

If you remember, the Queen had invited the King and Haman to two private dinners as part of her plan to ask the King to save her people from Haman's evil scheme. So, let us pick up the story right after they had finished the second meal. King Xerxes I, again, asks Queen Esther what she wants from him and then assures her that he will do anything she asks.

Esther 7:3-6 "Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?' And Esther said, 'A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen."

Uh oh! The cat is out of the bag! The King now knows that Haman plotted to have the Jews, the Queen's people, murdered. He was also told about Haman's plan to kill Mordechai. Needless to say, the King was very angry. Remember how we said that he was known for his bad temper? This was his reaction to Haman's sins;

Esther 7:10 "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated."

Not only was Haman killed, but his royal position and all of his possessions were given to Mordechai. This was wonderful justice for Mordechai, but the Jewish people still had a very serious problem; the royal command for the people to steal from and kill all of the Jews in Persia. You remember how we said that the King's commands could not be cancelled, right? Well, since the King could not take back the royal order against the Jews, he gave Queen Esther permission to send another royal command out to just the Jewish people in Persia. This order gave them the right to defend themselves and to kill anyone who tried to kill them. After this, Queen Esther also requested that they be given another day to kill their enemies, including the 10 sons

of Haman. The King agreed to her request and during those 2 days, the Jews killed over 75,000 of their enemies- wow!



After all of these events had occurred, Mordechai started a new yearly feast, the Feast of Purim, to celebrate how God had, once again, saved the Jewish people from their enemies. Purim is the Hebrew word for lots (dice). Remember, this is how Haman had decided on what day his evil plan would be carried out. The Jews still celebrate the Feast of Purim every year. They exchange gifts, eat a special meal, and read the story of Esther. Any time Haman's name comes up in the story, the children yell and use noisemakers to drown out his name. :D

God has taught us many lessons in this exciting book. We have learned that we all have a unique purpose in this life and can be used by God as a blessing to others. We have learned that God promises His children that He will always love them and will always be with them. We learned how important it is to stay humble, remembering not to think too highly of ourselves, and to love others. We also learned that we can trust God because He has everything under control.

In summary, the book of Esther teaches us that God is faithful to His people. Just like God knew about Haman's plan and put Esther on the throne to be used to save the Jewish people; He also knows all of the details of your life and creates a plan to save you. In turn, He then uses your life to save others.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

1 Timothy 2:4 “(God our Savior) who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

That does it for our study on the book of Esther. Now, go read your Bible! ☺