

Esther - Lesson Four

God is a God of great reversals! That's just what we see in the next two chapters of Esther. When it seems the story is about to end in tragedy... God reverses everything! He did it in Esther's case and He still does it today!



The Pencil Sketch

Read Esther 6-7

1. Find a comfortable chair and read Esther 6–7. Try to summarize the events of these two chapters.

- a. Does anything seem coincidental here?
2. Has God ever used insignificant things to work out a divine plan for your life? If so, can you share with your group?

Sleepless Nights

Read Esther 6:1-12

3. Insomnia is a worldwide problem; everyone has his or her own cure: some people count sheep, some listen to soothing music, and some try to read...until they fall asleep. What was the king's cure for insomnia?
4. What contrast and similarities do you see in Haman and King Ahasuerus on this same night?
5. How does the king respond when he realizes he slighted Mordecai?

6. Define honor, as you understand it.
 - a. Using an outside resource, enhance this definition.
 - b. Now, define humiliation.
7. How do you think Mordecai felt, being overlooked for so long?
 - a. Does he show any evidence of an offended, bitter spirit?



Personally Tailored

Do you ever think God is not concerned about you or your situation? A season of life where you felt like God had “forgotten” you? Perhaps someone else was recognized or promoted when you were more deserving? Or someone else was being used where you wanted to be used. Esther 6 is a great reminder that God never forgets and He rewards at the right appointed time! Take courage and know He has things well in hand! Read Ecclesiastes 3:1. How does this sum up these thoughts?

8. As you review this scene, in what way do you see God’s hand through this sleepless night?
9. Why was Haman in the outer court of the palace in verse 4?

10. Haman hurries home expecting comfort and reassurance; instead what does he get?
- a. What is Zeresh's interpretation of this disaster?
 - b. Read Luke 14:11. How does this portray Haman?
11. Zeresh and Haman were the epitome of a power-hungry couple, willing to do whatever it took to gain position, influence, and honor. Can you name another Bible couple that sought after the same thing and had similar results?



Personally Tailored

Haman and Zeresh's vengeful scheme against Mordecai is beginning to backfire, and soon their thoughts will be unveiled. They remind us of the importance of keeping a clear heart and conscious with God and with others. Is there a thought in your heart about anyone which you would dread being drug out for all to see? Beloved, even today God is giving you the opportunity to turn it over to HIM, to ask forgiveness and seek reconciliation.

12. There is always a test of humility when a promotion is given. The need to keep honest and accurate views of yourself is crucial. Read 2 Timothy 2:20–21. Here is a wonderful description of God's view of the useful and useless servants.

- a. What must someone do in order to be considered a vessel of honor?
- b. How would you describe their preparedness?
- c. What are you currently doing to reveal the kind of vessel/servant you are?

Secrets Revealed

Read Esther 7:1-10

Esther and Mordecai chose to do the right thing throughout the book, even though it had the potential of death. Chapter seven brings a stroke of light into the story...as hidden things become seen.

13. Try to list some truths that were previously hidden but now are revealed in chapter 7.
14. How significant were the delays between Esther's two banquets?
15. How did Esther present her request?
 - a. What strikes you about her plea?
 - b. Why did Esther wait until the king asked about her request?

c. Would you have waited?

16. How do you think the King and Haman felt as she began to share her heart?

a. What does her reference to being sold (in verse 4) seem to be referring to?

17. What do verses 6–8 reveal about Haman?

a. How accurate is her description of him?

18. How do you think the king felt after learning of his part in the treacherous plan to have all the Jews, including his queen, exterminated?

a. In what ways were his actions now different from in previous chapters?

19. When the king returned in verse 8, what did he see and think?

20. Do you see justice played out for Esther, Mordecai, and Haman in this chapter?

a. How do justice and doing the right thing work hand in hand?



Personally Tailored

Are you in a situation where justice needs to be made? What struggles do you face when these things do not seem to work out as they should? How can you seek to do the right thing in spite of the outcome?

Though the tables had been turned against Haman, there was still a big problem that lay ahead and needed to be dealt with. The last three chapters of Esther open up for us issues of restitution, justice, and peace.

