

Esther #6: Being Bold.

Text: Esther 5:1-17

(1-8) God Grants Favor and Opportunity

- How does Esther take advantage of her influence with the king?
- Is the offer of “half my kingdom” literal? No. This is an idiom meaning “just about anything you might want, I will grant you”. This shows the favor she had with Xerxes.
- Did Esther have a plan in all of this, or did she seem to be doing it all on the fly?

- In what ways does God show you providential favor in your life?

- How does knowing that it is God who gives us favor and opportunity allow us to be bold? In what ways should that knowledge change our attitude and thinking?

- Explain an instance in your life where you looked back in hindsight and saw that God was in control all along? That you were one chess piece in a MUCH bigger game of chess?

- If it is God who grants and takes away favor, what does that mean about our own effort?

(9-14) Our Depraved Nature Destroys Us

- How quickly does Haman’s mood change when he sees Mordeci?
- What kind of party does Haman throw? Can you imagine the gall and pride it takes for Haman to throw himself this kind of celebration?
- How does the influence that Haman’s wife and friends have over him compare to the influence Haman has over the king?

- How does Haman’s character represent the tendency of ourselves?

- How can Haman’s life be a warning to ours?

- In what ways does pride result in stupid decisions?

- Why is it that mankind seems to never be satisfied with what we have?