



## Pray

What does Esther 5:1-14 inspire you to pray about?  
Is there action you need to take? Pride to repent from?

Esther is interceding for her people. You do the same when you pray for others. Who is the person you need to pray for right now? Whose salvation are you praying for?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



## Thy Will Be Done | Esther 5:1-14

Study Guide 5 for sermon on 11/1/20



## Introduction

Whose plans are we carrying out? Are the plans we act on for the purpose of making our names great or God's name great? Are they about our kingdoms or his? Are they marked by selfishness or selflessness? Do the plans we carry out involve our living by faith at all? Do they involve our experiencing God's power as we walk in obedience? Do they result in the advancement of the gospel? In Esther 5, God's people are beginning to see God's providence unfold. Esther moves to acting on God's plan to preserve his people. As we act on plans we discern from God's Word rather than plans we devise from our wills, the Lord will use us for the development of his kingdom and not its detriment. What if we choose to act for our own name, in our own way, with our own plans? That's the way of Haman, and it leads to deadly results.



## Overview

**Context:** At the end of chapter 4, Esther decides to risk her life by approaching the King and intervening for the Jewish people. Chapter 5 describes her courageous interaction with the King. It's a huge moment for Esther and the King's response is more positive than we imagined. However, the story doesn't allow us to cheer for very long before Haman's hatred of Mordecai is put in front of us once more. By the end of chapter 5 the fate of the Jews is still uncertain and Mordecai has only hours to live.

**Structure:**

- I. Esther's Brave Banquet (vv. 1-8)
- II. Haman's Prideful Plans (vv. 9-14)



**Engage**

1. Count the number of times words like "royal" and "king" are used in verses 1 and 2. How does this repetition help us understand the intensity of the moment?
2. What do we know about King Ahasuerus that makes Esther's death a realistic possibility? Support your answers with Scripture references from chapters 1-4.
3. Esther agrees to approach the King because she believed it was God's will based on His promises (4:14). Esther then devised a plan to approach the King and invite him and Haman to a banquet. How can we be certain we're discerning God's plan for our lives from his Word rather than devising plans from our wills?
4. How does the king respond to Esther in verse 2? Describe a time you walked obediently in faith and experienced the Lord's favor, provision, or blessing.
5. Read verses 7-8. How would you argue that this is a case of "cold feet"? How would you argue that this is Esther being incredibly clever?
6. What are some ways in which you are called to step out in faith today? What makes it hard to do?
7. Why is there such animosity between Mordecai and Haman (5:9)?
8. In verses 10-12, Haman describes all that is wonderful about his life. In verse 13, he makes the shocking statement that none of it satisfies him. What reason does Haman give as to why those things don't satisfy him? In light of his, what is Haman's first love?
9. In what ways can we feed idolatry in our lives rather than forsaking it?
10. How does the gospel answer our need for true significance?
11. What can we do to surround ourselves with voices of conviction rather than just voices of compliance?