

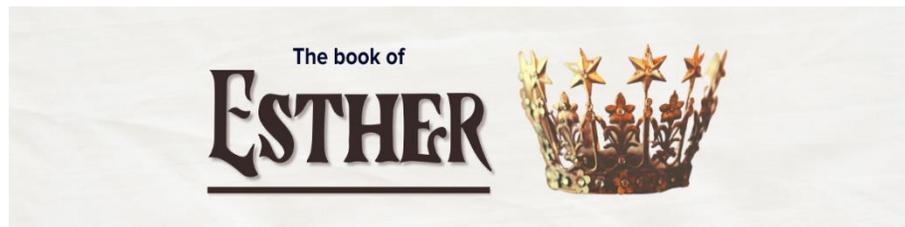


Pray

How does Esther 6 inspire you to pray?
Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself
and others?

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



A Royal Reversal | Esther 6

Study Guide 6 for sermon on 11/8/2020



Introduction

It is not always the big moments of life where God reveals his faithfulness and involvement in history and in our lives. In fact, it is a seemingly insignificant event that turns the narrative here in Esther. So far, God's people seem to be in a desperate situation from the beginning to this point. But from Esther 6 going forward, the enemies of God's people are on the run and God's people find a break—not because of their bold faith or fearless action, but simply because of a sleepless night of the King. Esther is absent from the chapter and Mordecai is a passive participant, but God is behind the scenes turning things around and restoring his people.

Historical context: *It was important that Persian kings publicly reward those who were loyal as a means of promoting their own safety in unpredictable times. In light of this, it is interesting that Haman's proposal for what "should be done to the man the king delights to honor" may seem unusual by modern standards. Believing the honors would go to himself, Haman could not ask for a promotion because he was already second only to the king in his authority over the empire. He had all the wealth and luxury a high-ranking position could afford in Persia. His request to wear the king's robe and ride the king's horse was intended both to honor the king and to reinforce Haman's relationship with him...For Haman no other honor was left but to partake of the king's own power, prestige, and stature. To have such an intimate gesture bestowed instead on Mordecai, the Jew, is a crushing humiliation. – Karen Jobes*



Overview

Context: Chapter 6 is the key pivot in the book. This is where the great reversal of events begins. The first in line for reversal is Mordecai. He is the subject matter of each of the three segments.

Structure:

- I. The King is without sleep and Mordecai is without reward (vv. 1-3)
- II. The King's Question and Haman's answer (vv. 4-9)
- III. Mordecai's honor and Haman's humiliation (vv. 10-14)



Engage

1. How can the perspective that God providentially orchestrates his purposes through many seemingly insignificant events in our lives change the way we look at the "normal" and "regular" parts of our day-to-day lives?
2. What does it mean to live with the confidence that God is ordering all our steps?
3. Why is Esther 6 more about what God is doing than what Esther and Mordecai are doing? What can we learn or be reminded of about God from studying this chapter?
4. How can we wait on the Lord joyfully rather than anxiously or angrily?
5. What are you currently pursuing with eagerness and haste? Would you say your life is more characterized by the pursuit of sin or a pursuit of Christ? Explain.
6. Have you, like Haman, ever eagerly or hastily pursued the detriment of someone else? How can the gospel help you keep this from occurring in the future?
7. We are often warned in the Bible to humble ourselves before the Lord, so why don't we consistently heed these exhortations? Why should we humble ourselves before the Lord?
8. Haman's fall happened so quickly in the text. Why should we remind ourselves often that in the blink of an eye we can be ushered into eternity and stand before the holy God?
9. Make a list of those you know who are not yet prepared to stand in the Lord's presence and give an account. How will you share the gospel with each of those people?
10. There is no one the Father wants to honor more than the Son. Why should we be just as eager to offer honor to Christ rather than seeking it for ourselves?