**Esther 7:1-10 May 23, 2021**

**God’s Timing is Always Perfect**

Esther’s Second Banquet Esther 7:1-2

* Esther’s first banquet (chapter 5) was yesterday
* In the meantime (chapter 6), Mordecai was exalted as the man who saved the king and Haman was humbled
* Haman and Xerxes are the **sole attendants**
* The king, for the 3rd time, asks Esther why she has invited them to come together
	+ Esther was waiting for the right place at the right time with the right setting to petition the king
* Esther had been very patient and diligent to wait, seek the Lord and then act in faith
	+ This was her moment, having prepared everything perfectly, to petition the king
	+ The king was willing to literally give her anything her heart desired or that she needed
	+ The king also had no idea what he had just given Esther permission to ask
* It was not obvious what the Lord was orchestrating
	+ He has seemed to be silent for all 9 years of the book
	+ Do not confuse lack of visibility with lack of activity on God’s part
	+ We cannot always see what He is doing

Esther’s Request Esther 7:3-4

* The time for **straight talk** has come
	+ Her actions were bathed in prayer and fasting
	+ She was diligent to solicit help from her people
	+ Now it is time for brutal honesty about a heinous treachery
	+ Yet her request is cloaked in humility:
	“If I have found favor in with you, O king…”
* She explains that there is a death sentence over me and my people

Xerxes’s Question Esther 7:5-7

* “Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?”
	+ It’s not clear if the king had put all the pieces together at this point or if he was waiting for Esther to set the record straight
* Esther now divulges the hatred of the man who had conspired to kill all the Jews

Haman’s Plea for Esther

* “Don’t treat me like I have treated your people”
* He asks Esther to grant to him **mercy and clemency** for his crimes against the Jews
	+ We do not know what Esther’s response was
	+ She did not rise to Haman’s defense when Xerxes came back into the room

Haman’s Fate is Delivered Esther 7:8-10

* Haman’s actions are misinterpreted by Xerxes
	+ Yet Haman should not have tried to plead his case with Esther
	+ Custom dictated that he should have gone to Xerxes, not Esther
	+ He committed a major error in judgment
* Harbonah, one of the eunuchs of the king, mentions the impaling stake that Haman had built for Mordecai
	+ Now the details were perfectly in focus for Xerxes
	+ Haman wanted Mordecai out of the way, yet Mordecai was the one who saved Xerxes life!
	+ Xerxes said, “Hang (impale) him on it.”

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