**Esther 5:1-14 May 9, 2021**

**Waiting on God’s Timing**

Esther Puts **Faith in Action** Esther 5:1-4

* Esther had fasted and prepared herself for three days
* She enlisted the support of all Jews to fast together
* She boldly went to the king’s court to see him
  + She could have been executed for approaching the king without being summoned
* Xerxes receives his Queen well
  + He can see that she is troubled or perplexed by something and he intends to see it satisfied
  + He says that even to ½ of the Persian Kingdom, her request shall be granted!
* Esther wants to take the king out of the court
  + She has prepared a private banquet
  + She was testing Xerxes to get a feel for his mood, his thoughts, and what he might do
  + She did not want to unravel her plan too quickly
* James 2:20 (KJV)  
  Faith without works is dead.
* Psalm 33:22 (NASB)  
  Let Your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, According as we have hoped in You.

Esther’s First Banquet Esther 5:5-8

* Xerxes and Haman meet alone with Esther
  + Esther has planned this time to be away from other advisors and men who may have ulterior motives
  + Esther allows the banquet to proceed, setting the stage for the right place and the right time
  + Esther is a **very, very wise woman!**

Esther’s First Banquet

* God is providentially working through Esther
  + He knew that the king need to read about Mordecai later that evening (chapter 6)
  + She wanted to build anticipation for Xerxes
  + God new that Haman would bring about his own downfall, given time and space
    - Esther, governed by her prayers, was purposing for everything to work out, in God’s time

Haman’s **Treachery** Esther 5:9-14

* Haman just had a private meal and time with the king and queen
  + He had every reason to feel good about himself, his position, his privilege and access
* Haman allowed anger and rage to overtake him
  + It is never helpful to have sinful anger override your actions
* Instead of humbly acknowledging his privilege, he became enraged at Mordecai
  + Proverbs 11:2, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”
  + Proverbs 16:18, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”
* He built a gallows on which he planned to kill Mordecai
  + This was not like the place of a long rope
  + It was an early version of crucifixion
  + The victim would be impaled upon a stake
  + The height was made so that more people would be able to see it

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