



Part 5: Favor with The King

Esther 5

1. What have you found uniquely helpful so far as we've studied Esther?

2. When it comes to the gospel, why is a *word picture* (illustration) worth 1,000 words of explanation?

a. Why don't we ever get beyond seeking more clarity from the gospel? Consider Romans 11:33-36.

3. Read Esther 4:13-5:1. Why was Esther in grave danger for approaching the King?

a. Read Acts 7:53, Colossians 2:14, Revelation 20:11,15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10. Why are we in grave danger *without* Jesus when we face God after death?

b. What set Esther apart from others when approaching the King?

c. What sets the people of Jesus apart from others when approaching God? Consider Isaiah 61:10; Zechariah 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; Ephesians 1:4.

4. Read Esther 5:2-3. What happens once the King sees Esther?

a. How does the King's response picture God's response to us through the gospel? Consider Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:7.

b. What does it mean to live under God's grace?

c. How does *resting* in God's grace toward me impact the way I relate to difficult people?

d. How does *resting* in God's grace affect my response to trying circumstances?

5. Read Esther 5:4-9. How does Haman's outlook paint a picture of WHY we need the gospel so much? Consider Matthew 24:37-39 and Proverbs 14:12.

6. Read Esther 5:9-14. Explain how Haman's pride both blinds and enslaves him.

a. Why is it foolish to read about Haman and simply look down at *his* foolishness?

b. What depths of evil might you have engaged in *apart from Jesus* if you didn't fear *consequences* and had *power* to do whatever you wanted? Why is the helpful to reflect on when we consider lost people around us?

7. Explain how we've seen God quietly working to bring about His Master Plan from Esther 1-5 so far.

8. What stood out to you as uniquely helpful when pondering the *gospel picture* Esther and the King reveal?
