

FINDING JESUS IN THE BOOK OF ESTHER

ESTHER CHAPTER 5

Outline For Esther 5:1-14

Main idea: When we make plans in life, we can choose between a plan of _____ or a plan of _____. Esther 5 outlines 2 plans with 2 different _____, 2 different _____ with 2 different _____ and _____. When we design a plan with God's idea, He will bring it to a greater _____ not _____.

- ❖ PLAN 1: Esther 5:1-8
- ❖ PLAN 2: Esther 5:9-14

I. Plan 1: Choosing to Be Used for Greater _____ in God's Kingdom: _____

- A. Put Feet to _____ (5:1)
- B. Experience God's _____ (5:2)
- C. Be _____ (5:3)
- D. Be _____ (5:4-8)
- E. Be obedient to the "_____ " of God's plan without fully knowing the "_____ ".

I. Plan 2: Choosing to Be used For _____ of the Kingdom: _____

- A. Fuel _____ rather than forsake it (5:9)
- B. Be convinced of your own _____ (5:10-13)
- C. Surround yourselves with voices of _____ rather than _____ (5:14)
- D. _____ the lives of others and eliminate anyone in the way (5:14)

Plan 1: Destiny in God's Kingdom: Esther 5:1-8

- A. Put _____ to _____ (5:1) - ***"On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance"***.
 - a. Esther put feet to her faith: She put her _____ robe & stood in the _____ court.
 - b. Esther did not _____ because behind it is a dangerous _____. Eg. "I will have more time..." (James 1:14a - ***Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring-what your life will be!***)
 - c. Esther's faith was fueled by her _____: No more reluctance or rationalization, just resolve. God did not put her in a position of _____ just that she can consider doing _____.
 - d. We cannot just make commitment to _____ for God but fail to _____.

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FINDING JESUS

1. Esther Came to the inner court but Ahasuerus was at the royal throne. Her access is contrasted with our access in Hebrews 4:16 -- **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**
 - a. She came to the _____, but we have access into the _____.
 - b. What she can _____, we have in _____.
 - c. She _____ an earthly _____, we are _____ by the _____!

2. Esther's faith & determination is similar to what Christ displayed as He followed the Father's plans. Luke 9:51 -- **As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.**
 - a. The Lord's _____ at the garden was finished; the time for _____ at Golgotha had arrived. He stepped up with resolve without reluctance or rationalizing. Esther was uncertain she would live; Christ was certain he would ____.

- B. Experience God's _____ (5:2) - **So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.**
 - a. Esther did everything she could humanly do: _____, put on her _____ robe, took the courage to _____ in the inner court. When she put her _____ to faith, she should not be surprised to find God's _____.
 - b. Esther Found _____ (5:2, 2:9,15.17): King extended His _____.

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1. So many found favor when they were suppose to be greeted with rejection when they came to Jesus:
 - a. The _____ with issue of _____ (Mark 5)
 - b. The _____ woman (John 8)
 - c. _____ Bartimaeus (Mark 10)
 - d. _____ woman (Mark 7)
 - e. _____ after denying Jesus (John 21)
 - f. The _____ on the cross (Luke 23)

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Plan 1: Destiny in God's Kingdom: Esther 5:1-8

- C. Be _____ (5:3) - *And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"*
- Esther who was worried for her life, did not ask for her _____ or _____ but the life her _____.
 - Selflessness is always a mark of those God is using to build his kingdom. _____ - *Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*
 - Paul told Corinthians 2 For 2:15 - *Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.*
 - Selflessness should be evident in our homes also, as _____, sacrificially love their _____ (Eph 5:25)

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1. The selfless life of Jesus:

- Learned _____ through the _____ & _____ (Hebrews 5:8)
- Lived for God's _____ not His
-- prayer at Gethsamane (Matthew 26:36-46)
- Humbled as a _____ (Phil 2: 5-9)
- Came to _____ not to be _____ (Mark 10:45)
- He _____ and eats with them (Luke 15:2)

D. Be _____ (5:4-8):

⁴And Esther replied, "If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a banquet I have prepared for the king." ⁵The king turned to his attendants and said, "Tell Haman to come quickly to a banquet, as Esther has requested." So the king and Haman went to Esther's banquet. ⁶And while they were drinking wine, the king said to Esther, "Now tell me what you really want. What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!" ⁷Esther replied, "This is my request and deepest wish. ⁸If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request and do what I ask, please come with Haman tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for you. Then I will explain what this is all about."

- Why offer 2 banquet to Ahasuerus & Haman? Way to man's Heart is through the _____? Break the _____?
- Esther could have gone for the win since Ahasuerus gave _____ offer of "giving half of his kingdom" (5:6;7:2). Why delay?

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- i. She was asking _____ of an _____ law signed with the King's signet ring.
- ii. If King grant her request, it would cost him _____ (half the annual tax revenue of his empire)
- iii. He has to _____ because the edict was approved by him.
- iv. She would have to reveal her _____ which she had been keeping for _____!

✚ Jesus said: ***"Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves"*** (Matt 10:16).

✚ This is strategy. Since the Lord called us to _____, utilizing strategy does not make us children of the devil or the world.

E. Be obedient to the "_____" of God's plan without fully knowing the "_____".

a. Esther did not know how God would use the night between the 2 feasts. She just did what she discerned: "Two-Feast" Strategy.

b. An angel told Philip to go to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8:26)

✚ God does not give us all the _____ for us to fulfill the _____. We are called to be obedient without knowing the objective of the obedience. While Esther's planning was important, but God was working behind it all.

✚ Proverbs 21: 1: The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he guides it wherever he pleases.