

TABLES ARE TURNED

Esther 5:1-6:13

From Pastor Phillip

God certainly isn't the only one who makes plans — we all like to think that we are in control and we all make plans for the future. However, God's plans are the only ones that ultimately prevail (Landon Dowden, *Esther*). God can quickly and sovereignly turn the tables on our selfish dreams and goals. Esther shows us we can trust that God uses seemingly insignificant events and the decisions of less-than-perfect people to fulfill his promises. We can take confidence in the fact that all of Satan's plans will be frustrated, and all of God's plans will be accomplished.

I. Selfish to Generous (vv. 5:1-8)

- A. Ahasuerus's generous offer
- B. Esther's strategic request

Bottom Line: God is sovereign over every king's heart—even sinful kings.

II. Hunted to Honored (vv. 5:9-6:10)

- A. Haman plots Mordecai's death
 - a. Haman is joyful
 - b. Haman is wrathful
 - c. Question: What fills you with joy and what kills your joy?
- B. Ahasuerus plans Mordecai's reward

Bottom Line: God is sovereign over seemingly insignificant events—even sleepless nights.

III. Haughty to Humbled (vv. 6:11-13)

- A. Haman's plan is frustrated
- B. Haman's fall is foretold

Bottom Line: God is sovereign over humbling the haughty and honoring the humbled—even when his judgment seems delayed.

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. How can we be certain we're discerning God's plans for our lives from his Word rather than devising plans from our wills?
2. How can we humble ourselves before the Lord?

FOR NEXT TIME— Matt Miller, special Teen Week speaker. Pray for Teen Week!