



ESTHER (Week 6) - Bravery in Judgment

Introduction | Os Guinness quote | ethos of our age | we live in times where we cannot make a judgment | Jerry Seinfeld & Chris Rock | we no longer know how to deal with dissenting thought

Can we make a judgment without being judgmental?

Esther 9:1-20

9 Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them.

- **The Great Reversal | as is the gospel | here we have a people condemned to death just as we are before we know Christ | the wages of sin is death | death is unnatural | the gospel's great reversal is the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**

2 The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm.

Here's the situation: The former decree that the King enacted to annihilate all the Jews cannot be revoked. This means there is still a decree for the death of all the Jews.

Mordecai's new decree said "that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods."

And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples.

Because of Mordecai's position now, the people feared the Jews.

3 All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful. 5 The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them.

Judgment | Now, remember this is in defense of their own lives. This is like Jews killing Nazis.

Exodus 6:6

6 Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.

6 In Susa the citadel itself the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men, 7 and also killed Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha 8 and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha 9 and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha, 10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they laid no hand on the plunder.

11 That very day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was reported to the king. 12 And the king said to Queen Esther, “In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed 500 men and also the ten sons of Haman. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces!

Between King Ahasuerus and Haman, these people were stuck between “the forces of decadence and chaos on the one side and the forces of hubris and overweening self-confidence on the other.”

Now what is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled.” 13 And Esther said, “If it please the king, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict. And let the ten sons of Haman be hanged on the gallows.”

This is a call for justice. For justice to be carried out there has to be a judgment. There are two questions. The first is, “Whose world view do you want to be judged by?” The second is, “Whose world view is true?”

- **Christianity is a historical religion | Did the stone need to be moved?**

14 So the king commanded this to be done. A decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged. 15 The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and they killed 300 men in Susa, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

- **Again, this was an issue of justice, not a time of opportunism.**

- **Judgment for actions is coming down.**

16 Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and got relief from their enemies and killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

- **Judgment is coming down. But it's always a question of righteous judgment or unrighteous judgment. One way or another judgment is occurring in government and politics and religion and in workplaces and lives across the globe. But again, I ask, according to whose standard? According to whose world view?**

- **Just as Mordecai was given authority to bring down this judgment, Jesus Christ has been given authority to judge humanity.**

- **This is where judging without being judgmental comes into play — in the gospel.**

John 5:27

27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Christ reserves the right to judge because of who He is — He is God in the flesh, the Definer of all things.

There are people arguing today for anything and everything without basis. To some, everything is okay as long as it's not Christianity. Christianity was a wrong turn for our culture, in the minds of many.

So, after the judgment came down —

17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

- **The day of judgment is either a celebration or a condemnation. It is the same with the story of the gospel.**
- **This is where Christianity comes into direct conflict with the age we live in. And here's what many fail to realize. If there is no judgment, if there is no Judge,**

no Lawgiver, no God, then please stop complaining about any and every injustice in the world. Stop complaining about holocausts. Stop complaining about genocides. Stop complaining about parents killing their children. Stop complaining about child pornography and sex-trafficking.

- **And I would venture to say that your hypocrisy will be revealed in that if you're not a Christian and yet you find everything I mentioned repugnant, please tell me on what basis you find them wrong? By whose judgment?**

John 3:19

19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light

**Why on earth would people love darkness?
Why on earth would people want to be spiritually blind?**

because their works were evil.

People love darkness because they love the way they're living. They love what they're doing. So many world views, so many philosophies, so many religions are not based upon truth or reality, but they were formed that people might justify the lives they live. Lives in opposition to the Judge of the Universe.

Judging without being judgmental comes into play because the Christian who is pursuing Christ understands this is their past. This was me. The Christian understands, "If not for the grace of God..."

18 But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth, and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of feasting and gladness. 19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another.

Remove the religious nature of any holiday and all you have room for is materialism and gluttony.

20 And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

Esther 10

10 King Ahasuerus imposed tax on the land and on the coastlands of the sea. 2 And all the acts of his power and might, and the full account of the high honor of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? 3 For Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was great among the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brothers, **for he sought the welfare of his people and spoke peace to all his people.**

John 5:25-29

25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Salvation Prayer:

I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, in His great mercy and love, died for me and in my place, bearing my sins in His own body on the cross. And believing this, I do here and now welcome Him into my heart as my Savior from sin, from selfishness, from the power of the devil, and from hell itself. Jesus Christ said in the Bible that if I will go to Him, He will not cast me out. (*John 6:37*) And I do come to Him with all my heart just now, as a poor, helpless, guilty sinner, seeking salvation. I know that He will not reject me. As well as I can, I believe that He does at this very moment take me in. He forgives me now. His blood that was shed at the cross washes all my sins away. He was wounded for my sin; He was bruised for the wrong that I did against Him and others; the punishment I ought to have endured was laid on Him; and with His suffering I am healed and brought into a right relationship with the one true living God. I am forgiven at last. Praise to God - Jesus saves me now!