

## What is that one thing?

Esther 3-5

# Christmas every year – Easter every Sunday Thanksgiving every day!

"Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." Esther 5:13

#### Thankful for great examples of faith!

When Haman saw that Mordecai neither bowed down nor paid homage to him, Haman was filled with rage. Esther 3:5

Now it was when they had spoken daily to him and he would not listen to them, that they told Haman to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. 3:4

#### Thankful for examples - Esther 3

- Mordecai would not bow to any but Jehovah
- Haman was enraged!
- Mordecai would not give in or compromise
- The World loves to give substitutes –
- Give nothing of God's to anyone else!
- Keep your eyes on God nothing else matters!

"We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction." Harry Ironside

#### Thankful for everyday blessings!

God did not leave us here just to get blessings – He left us here to be a blessing!

Then the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. The king said to Haman, "The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with them as you please." Esther 3:10,11

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly. Esther 4:1

He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. 4:2

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#### Thankful for everyday - Esther 4

- Jews were protected even during captivity
- Now the rage of one prideful man threatens all
- Jews must trust God good or bad times!
- Sin can destroy our life ours or another's
- Our cry for help should be no louder than our praise!

"I can thank God for everything He provides and He protects!"

Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. Esther 4:13

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?" 4:14

Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, ... And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." 4:15,16

#### Thankful for expectations

- Protection
  - 'do not imagine...'
- Purpose
  - 'for such a time as this'
- Providence
  - 'if I perish, I perish'

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#### Thankful for expectations - God's!

- Protection
  - Our security is not in what we own or can do!
- Purpose
  - Our purpose may be to do ONE thing!
- Providence
  - Our life is not our own to direct or protect!

## "Our disappointments become discontents only if we disbelieve!"

#### Thankful for enjoyments - not just fun!

#### A PLOT AGAINST THE KING!

But the plot became known to Mordecai and he told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

Esther 2:22

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"Yet all of this does not satisfy me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." Esther 5:13

During that night the king could not sleep so he gave an order to bring the book of records, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. Esther 6:1

The king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?"
Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." 6:3

King honored Mordecai by having Haman lead him through town proclaiming his honor before the King!

#### Thankful for enjoyments - Esther 5,6

- God was working in ALL events: Esther's mystery banquet, Mordecai's integrity, Haman's jealousy, King's restless night
- God used the pride of Haman to honor Mordecai
- God used the invite of Esther to inflate Haman
- God used the humility of Mordecai to humble Haman

If you are not happy with what you have - you will never be happy with what you get!

"Careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, thankful for anything." Dwight L. Moody

#### What is your 'one thing'?

- What is keeping you for thanking God for all things?
- Do you have godly examples? Are you an example?
- Do appreciate the everyday?
- Do you expect God to use you or amuse you?
- Do you serve God without expectation of reward?

"An active faith can give thanks for a promise, though it be not as yet performed; knowing that God's bonds are as good as ready money." Matthew Henry

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

1 Chronicles 16:34

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