

Esther 4-5 –23 March 2023

“A Time To Confront Evil”

Introduction

*In Chap 1-3, we saw God setting the stage for Esther & Mordecai to fulfill God’s plan for their life

*Much movement of pieces in & out of their life

*Then evil Haman launched his plan to kill all Jews in the world

*Theme of the book: Do you have the faith to be part of God’s providential plan & be blessed for it?

*Today in Chap 4-5, it’s A Time To Confront Evil

*For the Christian we mostly can focus on being salt & light & not worry about confronting darkness

*Gal 5:16 – Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh

*But when evil comes threatening God’s people & God’s plan – we’re called to confront it

*Goal: not to harm evil ones, but to help God’s people

***Today let’s see 7-fold attitude that will enable us to confront evil when necessary**

#1: Cultivate a mourning heart (Chap 4:1-4)

Read Chap 4:1-3

1. Jewish extermination was just decreed so Mordecai & many around the world began to publicly grieve
2. Grieving isn't a sign of hopelessness

Read Vs 4

1. Esther doesn't know of the situation that's caused him to grieve so she thinks he's in danger
2. Sending clothes so he could come to her, but he knew the mourning as more appropriate

#2: See superior value in God's plan (Chap 4:5-13)

Read Chap 4:5-8

1. Mordecai explains thru the servant the situation that all Jews are in & asks her to plead before the king to change the order to kill all Jews

2. Isn't like chap 2:22 in which she just passed a message to the king warning of a plot against him
 - a. This would be her interrupting the king's political business trying to change the law

Read Vs 9-11

1. Esther replies that she hasn't been called to be a part of the political business for the past month
2. She'd be taking her life in her hands if she goes

Read Vs 12-13

1. Your life Esther is already on the line
2. Same for us
 - a. Whether we act in faith for God or not, we'll still face troubles
 - b. Whether we act in faith for God or not, we'll still be disliked by certain people
 - c. So, we might as well honor God!

#3: Choose to serve in faith God's plan (Chap 4:14)

Read Chap 4:14

1. Mordecai believed God would deliver His people, yet he still mourned & sought God's method
2. God will deliver His people & perform His will
 - a. The question is, do we want to be part of it?
 - b. Ultimate blessing to be a part of it, or destruction for not being a part of it
3. Maybe this is the very highlight of what God's been setting up for Esther

#4: Prepare in prayer (Chap 4:15-17)

Read Chap 4:15-17

1. Long before the action, she settles it in her heart that she's willing to go all the way
2. Just like Jesus in the Garden

- a. Garden settled it, cross performed it & the resurrection proved it
3. Prayer takes the thoughts of our heart to that spiritual place with God
 - a. When plans are brought to God in prayer, they'll either melt away of the flesh or be confirmed they're indeed spirit & from God

#5: Demonstrate a winsome courage (Chap 5:1-4)

Read Chap 5:1-3

1. Spiritually & physically beatified, she went into the inner court and found favor in the eyes of the king
2. Half the kingdom – Ask anything other than to overthrow me

Read Vs 4

1. In front of many, she didn't address issue
2. Seems she wanted to tell the king privately

#6: Allow God to work thru our frailty (Chap 5:5-8)

Read Chap 5:5-6

1. The king knew that just coming to the banquet wasn't the request
2. He knew she was looking to ask privately

Read Vs 7-8

1. Why does she shy away?
 - a. Was it simple fear?
 - b. Was it a plan to heighten Xerxes interest?
2. God sovereignly used Esther's delay to work in Xerxes heart before Esther finally reveals things

#7: Expect enemy arrogance (Chap 5:9-14)

Read Chap 5:9a

1. Left joyful b/c he's gloating of his high position

Read Vs 9b-10

1. Haman heads home to talk about his day

2. At the house, is he a humble or proud man?

Read Vs 11-12

1. I got money, great family, position at work
2. In fact, work is so good that the queen invited only me to a banquet with the king

Read Vs 13

1. Haman's greatest goal is self – that everyone would reverence him as above them
2. Haman has achieved 2nd in kingdom
 - a. But he's not satisfied, he wants more!
3. A Christian's contentment comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ
 - a. Not that we are awesome & high, but that Jesus is awesome & high, & we belong to Him

Read Vs 14

1. Ask for get your personal revenge tomorrow
2. What's more satanic & prideful than wiping out a whole race to eliminate one person?
 - a. Wanting that one person gone now!

Conclusion

So, in personal offense, Jesus tells us to turn the other cheek, but when evil comes for your family, friends, your church or nation...it's time to confront it

1. **Cultivate a mourning heart**

a. Isn't a sign of hopelessness, but of identification

2. **See the superior value in God's plan**

a. Life will still bring trouble, choose God

3. **Choose to serve in faith God's plan**

a. Set aside fear, for what we're made for

4. **Prepare in prayer**

a. Let prayer purify our plans & methods

5. **Demonstrate a winsome courage**

a. We should want to be seen as trying to help

6. **Allow God to work thru our frailty**

a. We don't have to execute the perfect plan

7. **Expect enemy arrogance**

a. There will always be opposition to God's plan – don't be shocked