

HADASSAH

#5, the golden scepter – Esther 5:1-14

Est 4:11, "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days."

Est 4:16b, And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish.

It was time! Hadassah saw that there was no other alternative. She was all that stood between the Jews certain annihilation and their future hope. The third day of fasting was complete. She put on her royal robes and, without being summoned, gracefully walked into the inner court and quietly stood before the king and his golden scepter.

1 Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace.

[1.] v:1, It doesn't say but, why might you conclude that Hadassah was afraid?

[2.] v:1 again, How did the queen conquer her fear and go ahead and do what was required?

[3.] v:1 again, What might have happened if Hadassah was one who would sit back and let someone else do it?

[4.] v:1 last time, It's obvious that we, as Christians, fear to do certain things. What are some of the things and why are we afraid to do them?

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2 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.

3 Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you, Queen Esther? And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you."

4 Esther said, "If it pleases the king, may the king and Haman come this day to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

[5.] v:2, she obtained favor in his sight, **What does this mean?**

[6.] v:2 again, What do you think was at work to cause the king's reaction?

[7.] v:2 last time, This verse reminds us of Hebrews 4:16. Write down the similarities between the two verses.

[8.] v:3, Even to half of the kingdom it shall be given to you. **In the king's thinking what did this mean?**

[9.] v:3 again, Why or why wasn't this the cause for which the queen was willing to risk her life?

[10.] v:4, come this day to the banquet, **Oh wow, another party! But what do we know about Hadassah that proves that partying was not the real purpose for the invitation?**

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5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet which Esther had prepared. 6 As they drank their wine at the banquet, the king said to Esther, "What is your petition, for it shall be granted to you. And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

7 So Esther replied, "My petition and my request is: 8 if I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and do what I request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king says."

9 Then Haman went out that day glad and pleased of heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate and that he did not stand up or tremble before him, Haman was filled with anger against Mordecai.

10 Haman controlled himself, however, went to his house and sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh. 11 Then Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, and the number of his sons, and every instance where the king had magnified him and how he had promoted him above the princes and servants of the king. 12 Haman also said, "Even Esther the queen let no one but me come with the king to the banquet which she had prepared; and tomorrow also I am invited by her with the king.

[11.] v:5-6, Bring Haman, How do you think Haman felt about being the "special guest" of the king and queen?

[12.] v:7-8, The possible problem/s with Hadassah's stall tactics are:

- a) the king and Haman really didn't like to drink and carouse.
- b) Haman did not seek notoriety.
- c) the clock was ticking for the Jews.
- d) the king wanted to spend more time caring for the people.

[13.] v:9, did not stand up or tremble, Like Haman, when any one is not esteemed, what are some nagging thoughts they suffer with?

[14.] v:10-12, List some things Haman did to try and sooth the savage beast within him.

[15.] v:10-12, Why or why don't you think it ever crossed Haman's mind that Hadassah was playing him like a banjo?

[16.] v:10-12, You don't have to answer this one but, as a Christian, when are you easily handled?

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

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows fifty cubits high made and in the morning ask the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go joyfully with the king to the banquet." And the advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

[17.] v:13, Yet all of this does not satisfy me, For Haman, how much was enough?

[18.] v:13 again, Write what you feel is the meaning of I John 2:15?

[19.] v:13 one more time, Write what you feel is the meaning of Colossians 3:1-3.

[20.] v:14, have Mordecai hanged, Hey this should work! You know, get rid of the problem and live happily ever after! However for the Christian, if the Lord should send problems what purpose could they possibly serve?

[21.] v:14 again, As a Christian, why or why wouldn't a person like Zeresh be a good choice for the person with which you will spend the rest of your life?

[22.] Why is it important for Christian's to study these events from Bible history?