

HADASSAH

#6, providence – Esther 6:1-14

providence,

1 a: divine guidance or care

b: God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny

2 : the quality or state of being provident

Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary

Our lesson opens with the words, **During that night the king could not sleep so he gave an order to bring the book of records,**

That night was the night after the banquet. It was the same night that Zeresh gave advice to have Mordecai executed. It was the night Haman ordered the gallows to be built. Here is an example of God's providence where His sovereign hand is moving to bring about His will for His people.

1 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. 2 It was found written what Mordecai had reported concerning Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who were doorkeepers, that they had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

3 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."

[1.] v:1-2, It was found written, **Find this account in chap 2 and write down the people God used to get this news to the king.**

[2.] v:3, What honor or dignity, **So this same night Mordecai filled the thoughts of two men. Who were they?**

[3.] v:3 again, Nothing has been done for him, **In the king's mind, Mordecai had been forgotten. What would have caused the king's servants to remember?**

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4 So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace in order to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows which he had prepared for him.

5 The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman is standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

[4.] v:4, to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai, **If Haman had been aware of the king's insomnia and its subsequent revelations, would he be coming on his errand?**

[5.] There seems to be "a good time" and "not a good time" in approaching another with an idea, request or what have you. Before "launching in", what might we do?

[6.] v:5, Behold, Haman is standing in the court. **This is too much! Who's in control of these events?**

[7.] v:5 again, Let him come in, **Oh brother, invited in to see the king! At this time, what should Haman definitely not do?**

[8.] v:5 again, **The king's servants seem to know all that goes on in and around the palace. Why or why wouldn't they whisper a warning to Haman?**

[9.] **Why are the principles of I Peter 2:17 important commands for Christians to follow?**

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6 So Haman came in and the king said to him, "What is to be done for the man whom the king desires to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?"

7 Then Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king desires to honor, 8 let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown has been placed; 9 and let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble princes and let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, 'Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.'"

10 Then the king said to Haman, "Take quickly the robes and the horse as you have said, and do so for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the king's gate; do not fall short in anything of all that you have said." 11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor."

[10.] v:6, whom the king desires to honor? Why was Haman blinded by this question?

[11.] v:6 again, The intense desire for notoriety seems to be very strong in humans of all ages. Why or why isn't this a healthy desire for a Christian?

[12.] v:7-9, To whom did Haman assume the king was referring?

[13.] v:7-9 again, OK, had the king asked Mordicai the same question (v:6), why or why wouldn't his answer be the same as Haman's?

[14.] v:7-9 last time, In Mt 5:13, Christ described the people as "the salt of the earth. Considering the king, Haman, Hadassah and Mordicai, whom would you call "the salt of the earth"?

[15.] v:10-11, How is this so similar to how the Lord deals with us, His children, when we get "puffed up"?

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12 Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried home, mourning, with his head covered.

13 Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish origin, you will not overcome him, but will surely fall before him."

14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hastily brought Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

[16.] v:12, mourning, with his head covered.
Who probably didn't enjoy the festivities?

[17.] v:12 again, Do you feel the king had been satisfied with his Haman's obedience?

[18.] v:12 again, Why might you conclude that Mordecai didn't care one way or another?

[19.] v:12, last time, As Christians, Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who _____ . Why is this sometimes difficult?

[20.] v:13, surely fall before him. Why or why don't you feel Zeresh and Haman's wise men really put "two and two" together?

[21.] v:14, So you're Haman, on the way to Hadassah's second banquet and someone stops you and asks, Hows your day been so far? What might be your reply?

[22.] Even though the world scoffs at the "good news" we bring, at the end of their days how might they feel?