

Behind the Scene

Esther 7:1-6

Sermon Outline

A. God at Work (Vs. 1-2):

1. Esther decided to stand for her people:
 - a) Esther's words, "If I must die, I am willing to die," expressed her submission to do God's will no matter what the cost (4:16; cf. Luke 1:37). [\[1\]](#)
2. Now the kings and Haman came – The king and Haman were determined to fulfill the commitment they made to Esther. They were committed to do anything within their power to be present at Esther's banquet.
 - a) This was the fifth banquet mentioned in the Book of Esther: two were given by the king (1:3, 5), one by Queen Vashti (1:9), and two by Queen Esther (5:4, 8). During the banquet the king again asked Esther her request, and again he promised that he would grant it to her (cf. 5:3, 6). This time Esther got right to the point and gave her petition and request ... life for her and her people. [\[2\]](#)
3. The king said – The king began the conversation with no intent to stop talking until he received a response from Esther. Notice he called her Queen Esther.
4. What is your petition – The king persisted in seeking to learn what specific request was on pressing Esther's to cause her to two banquets.
5. It shall be granted – The king said he would continuously generously hand over to Esther whatever she requested even if it was the kingdom.
6. What is your request – Now that Esther is hopefully comfortable the king wants to earnestly ask Esther to say what is it she wants for him to do. Esther has the king's complete attention and complete willingness to be very generous with her.
7. It shall be done - The king implies that he has continuously obligated himself to work hard to bring about, no matter what it takes to place into existence whatever request Esther was going to place before him.

B. He Opens Doors (vs. 3-4):

1. The Queen Esther replied - Queen Esther responds as if there is no end to what she is going to say.
2. If I have found – To find favor here is to arrive at a point where what was not there is now present in King Ahasuerus mind to get done.
3. Favor – Esther seeks for the king to provide her kindness for what she is about to share with him.
4. In your sight – My saying to the king ‘in your sight’ Esther recognizes his tender concern for her especially based on his generosity.
5. Pleases the king – By pleasing the king Esther is saying that if what she is saying is beneficial because it is good for his kingdom she needs him to grant her the request she is making.
6. My life be given me – Esther staying alive was continuously dependent on the generosity the king was willing to provide.
7. My petition – Esther specific request was a life and death issue she needed the king to grant to her.
8. My people as my request – The earnest request is not just for her but also for all the people of her race.

a) Emboldened by Mordecai’s sudden change of fortune, Esther finally identified herself with the people of Israel who had been sold (3:9; 4:7) to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish (the same wording as in 3:13). If we had been sold for bondmen ... I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king’s damage. [\[3\]](#)

9. Sold to be destroyed – The king has been tricked into working with Haman to annihilate she and her people.

a) Although the Hebrew wording is not altogether clear to us today, it probably means that the punishment of Haman would involve far less financial loss to the king than would the destruction of thousands of Jews. By contrast, however, Esther would have remained silent if the Jews had been sold as slaves, for this would doubtless have brought much initial profit to the king (F. U. Schultz, “Esther,” in *Lange’s Commentary*). [\[4\]](#)

b) Esther insinuated that slavery was okay but annihilation was not. Maybe slavery would profit the king – “for the trouble would not be commensurate with the annoyance to the king.” (vs. 4).

10. To be killed – The word kill here means that the annihilation was going to be a ruthless, violent slaughter of her and her people. Haman was carrying out a ruthless, murderous, personal vendetta on her people.

11. Annihilated; Destroy – They were all going to be killed, destroyed from the entire kingdom.

a) The last phrase of the verse, “No such distress would justify disturbing the king,” is difficult to translate. The NIV note gives an alternate translation that emphasizes the loss the king would suffer by exterminating the Jews: “The compensation our adversary offers cannot be compared with the loss the king would suffer.”^[5]

12. I would have remained silent – Esther would have gone about her task completely committed to say and do nothing if her people would have been sold as slaves. Slavery was profitable to the king.

C. He Establishes us to Overcome Obstacles (vs. 5-6):

1. Said – The King Ahasuerus persistently asked who the person was that did what Esther is talking about.

2. Presume in their heart – King Ahasuerus wanted to know that he had completed a fully developed plan like this.

a) Haman was a living illustration of Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.” Haman’s wife, Zeresh, and his advisers interpreted the turn of events in which Mordecai, a Jew, was honored as a bad omen (6:13). Perhaps they knew something of God’s promise to judge those who would harm his Jewish people (Gen. 12:3; Zech. 2:8–9).^[6]

3. Presume in their heart – King Ahasuerus wanted to know who had completely made up their minds to fully execute such a plan.

4. To do - The king worded this question in manner as if he understood that the person who made these plans has worked very hard and has obligated themselves to faithfully execute what they had proposed in their mind to do.
5. Said – Esther continuously kept saying that Haman was the person who devised such a plan.
6. Foe – It seems like Esther was ready to fight Haman at all cost.
7. Wicked; Distress; evil – Haman did not care for God's standards and he was considered by Esther to be unethical and immoral (3:3-4 – Mordecai explained why he did not bow).
8. Terrified – Haman was completely taken over with fear to the point that he was trembling.
9. Terrified – The bully, arrogant, proud Haman was brought to his knees by an ordinary beautiful young lady that God put in place to be Queen in order to save His people.