

# Esther Finds Favor

## Esther 5

### The turning of the tables...

Our sovereign God operates on a divine principle we could call **the turning of the tables**. Often in biblical history, we see a *turning point*, when **the tables are turned** in the favor of God's people who delight in Him. Sometimes their circumstances are not favorable in a *fallen world*. But somewhere along the way—sometimes sooner, sometimes later, sometimes only after their arrival in heaven, but somewhere—**God always turns the tables on \_\_\_\_\_**, and evil is overcome by God's \_\_\_\_\_. We see it over and over in the Bible: **The tables are turned**. And *if* you love God and are called according to His purpose, and *if* you are paying attention and have the eyes of faith, you've seen **God turn the tables on evil** in *your life* as well. Over and over again.

*It's a Sovereign-God-principle.* In Esther 5, **the tables are beginning to turn on evil**. In Esther 3 and 4, evil had the upper hand. Wicked Haman had **the tables turned** on Mordecai and on all the Jews in the kingdom. His evil plot became an unchangeable law and every Jew was under the sentence of death. **But God is sovereign ... even** in a fallen world where Haman has power to plot out the evil schemes of his evil father, the devil. And here we are today, seated at the table, with front row seats, to watch God sovereignly work in the world through an unlikely set of circumstances to accomplish His purposes.

### Because God is for Israel:

#### 1. Esther finds \_\_\_\_\_ (1-8).

**Verse 1:** We dare not overlook the fact that this is a most courageous thing she's doing, standing where she wasn't by law permitted to stand, and by law deserving of the death penalty. Every Jew in Susa was fasting and praying for her. But Esther was the one who had to do the unthinkable. She had to allow *her faith in God* to sufficiently overcome *her fear of the king* to step out in \_\_\_\_\_ in defiance of the king, an

act that at any other time would bring his awful and impulsive wrath down on her head...

**Verse 2:** “She won favor in his sight,” *because* God is sovereign, and *because* she first had won favor in \_\_\_\_\_ sight. And when Ahasuerus caught sight of her, stunned at first, he had to think, only something of great importance would’ve caused Esther to risk her life like this.

**Verses 3-8:** What’s taking Esther so long to get to the point? One, it’s not the right \_\_\_\_\_: She knows better than to blow up the king’s world immediately, without *a set up*. Two, it’s not the right \_\_\_\_\_: Haman wasn’t present. Three, God causes her to delay for His right \_\_\_\_\_: A providential element to the story *had to* first take place. Four, the slower pace of the day, called “the slow rhythm of the east.”

## 2. Haman finds \_\_\_\_\_ (9-13).

**Verse 9:** Look at the confidence of Mordecai rooted in His fear of God. For when you fear God most, you fear man \_\_\_\_\_. Even Haman’s plot against his life couldn’t intimidate Mordecai. So he just sat there.

**Verses 10-12:** Almost always, Haman talking about himself made him feel better about himself. It’s how he and people like him live; it’s how they sustain their false sense of self-worth.

**Verse 13:** “...worth nothing...” In other words, “All of this gain *cannot be compared* to this one great \_\_\_\_\_—this one man’s disrespect *far outweighs* all of this respect. This *one man*, Mordecai...”

## 3. Haman finds \_\_\_\_\_ (14).

God is not just yet ready for Haman to fall. God *is turning the tables*, but they’re *not turned* completely. He allows evil to have one more day.

“Fifty cubits high” is “\_\_\_\_\_ feet tall.” Almost eight stories, way above the trees, to be seen from miles around. That’s a bit overkill, isn’t it? *That’s the point*. Hatred-malice-wrath excel in overkill. This is how the sick, twisted minds of the wicked work. Those of us who have been faithfully walking in the faith for a while know that to be true.

But we also know this to be \_\_\_\_\_: God is not callously standing by, arms crossed, without a care for the unrighteous sufferings of the righteous. The tension in the Haman-Mordecai conflict has just reached its peak. And God is standing in the shadows, keeping watch over His own.

The pleasures of the wicked will not stand. In His time, our sovereign God won't let them stand. The favor that Esther found, we find, because at just the perfectly right time, **the tables will begin to turn.**

## **Do you believe that?**

Do you believe, that as God's child whom He is for, if He hasn't yet **turned the tables** for you, He will? What we are learning from Esther is real life. It's real life in a fallen world with sovereign God on His people's side. This isn't life for those days but not our days. This is every day for every believer. The question is, *do you believe it?* If you do, your life will show it. I think it was Warren Wiersbe who once wrote, "What life does to us depends on what life \_\_\_\_\_ in us."