

Esther: God's Faithful, Providential Care

A Bad Day for a Bad Man

Esther 6

Personal power or Sovereign grace?

When it comes to living out our lives here on earth, which one is it? Many on the secular side would say, "Personal power. I determine outcomes in my life." That's powerfully put in Ernest Henley's 19th-century poem, **Invictus**, which is Latin for "**Unconquered**." Another early title was _____.

Is it **personal power** where we're in control, or is it **sovereign grace** that's leading and guiding us all along the way until we're safely home? Haman could say, "I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul." That's Haman. But that's not Mordecai. From not bowing before the son of Agag, to trusting in the sovereignty of God, to fearing God, I now think Mordecai is a **sovereign grace** guy. I now think he could sing, "Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home."

And because of sovereign, providential grace, he's about to have a very good day! It's going to be a **good day for a _____ guy!** But, also, because of God's sovereign, providential grace, it about to be a **very bad day for a very bad man!** A day in which he has no control—he's not "the master of his fate" after all!

Esther 5:14: I doubt that Haman slept that night. He probably stayed up to oversee the construction of the gallows, and was just too excited to sleep in anticipation of having his archenemy, Mordecai, hanged on it. While on the other side of the citadel, King Ahasuerus, also, couldn't sleep. But His insomnia was of God, because God had something important to reveal to the king *before* Esther's second feast. **So his insomnia led to four spoken lines that made for a bad day for a bad man.**

Haman's bad day:

1. What _____ done? (1-3).

Do you see the sovereignty of God in all of this? The Persian king did what Persian kings *don't do*—he *just happened* to overlook honoring a man who *just happened* to save his life. Five years later, on the night between Esther's two feasts, when the king promised to honor her request, he *just happened* to be unable to sleep. He could have been entertained in so many ways, but he *just happened* to command that the book of memorable deeds be brought and read. And it *just so happened* that Mordecai's memorable deed was read.

Can our God direct a series of seemingly insignificant circumstances to _____ together for our great good and His great glory? *Never underestimate God's sovereignty over everything, even seemingly insignificant things, that often lead to absolutely extraordinary things!*

2. What _____ done? (4-9).

Haman had to be thinking, "Wow, what a good day this is going to be for me! Not only will I be highly honored by the king, but by midday Mordecai will be highly hanged!" He's completely unaware of a Hebrew song Book that was written centuries before his time that completely contradicted his thoughts, his plans, and the counsel of his wife and friends. **Psalm 33:10-12:** "The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage." And, **Proverbs 21:30:** "No wisdom, no understanding, no plan can succeed _____ the LORD."

3. _____ to Mordecai the Jew (10-11).

How ironic for Haman! The thing Mordecai *wouldn't do* to Haman—honor him as a great man at the king's gate—Haman *had to do* publicly to Mordecai! I'm reminded of the word from Romans: "Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord" (12:19). What an awesome turn of events in the turning of the tables.

4. You _____ overcome him (12-14).

Verse 12: High honor doesn't spoil a truly humble man because his character runs deep. But humiliation is often the beginning of the end for an extremely proud man.

Verse 13: Haman's counselors can now see the writing on the wall. They are so right: The bottom is falling out, and Haman will surely fall fast before Mordecai. Why? *Because Mordecai is a Jew!* If Mordecai the Jew is lifted up, Haman the Agagite _____ thrown down!

The secular world is wrong!

The man or woman who stands squarely against God and God's people, their head will not only be bloodied but _____. And it *does* matter "how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll," for, after all, he or she *is not* "the master of their fate, nor the captain of their soul." Our God is! And that's the central thrust of this Spirit-inspired Book: Neither Haman or any other demonic human can possibly stand against God and His chosen ones, whether those chosen people are the Jewish Nation or the Christian Church. If one attempts to do so, he's in for some really bad days ahead.

But for us who love God, who trust His promises, and are passionate about living out His will for His glory, it's amazing sovereign, providential grace that saved wretches like us. But grace didn't only save us. It's His sovereign, providential grace by which we _____. So, yes, "Through many dangers, toils, and snares, we have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home."