**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 28 July 2021**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**Theme:** **“A Woman for Such a Time as This”** **(Esther 4:14)**

"…Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

**Esther Chapter 5**

**(Part 2)**

**Esther 5:7**

7 Esther replied, “My petition and my request is this:

8 If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king’s question.”

* Esther is not led by the Spirit of God to share her request with the King right away
* She decided to have another banquet the next day.
* The favor of God and the King’s curiosity causes him to agree to the Queen’s second invitation

According to **Ephesians 6:10-12,** we must face the evil spirits of racism, hatred, jealousy, anger, and injustice in the power of God’s wisdom and might.

10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power**.

* Esther stood before the King in the power of God’s strength with confidence and assurance.
* She was spiritually prepared to carry out her plan against Haman, but she had to keep her trust in God

  11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

* Putting on the whole armor of God is the believer’s spiritual defense against Satan
* It allows the believer to hold his/her position while fighting the evil forces of Satan and trusting in God.
* The Greek word for the *“wiles of the Devil.”* is a word that means “*schemes.”*
* Satan’s schemes are clever, he uses crafty methods and **deception** to prevail over the believer
* Satan does not do this alone. He uses a well-organized force to accomplish his plans
* Remember, Satan’s schemes are against the God of our salvation that lives within us—notice **Ephesians 6:12**

**(NLT)**

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**(Amplified)**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [*contending only with* ***physical opponents***], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [*present*] darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly (*supernatural*) *places*.

* There are three powerful truths for believers to remember when contending with Satan:
* **1.** Coping with the crafty and deceptive methods of Satan requires biblical truth and righteousness
* **2.** Christ death on the Cross has disarmed Satan and his army—**Colossians 2:15**

In this way, he disarmedthe spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

* **3.** Satan’s power is under Jesus Christ’s authority—**1 Peter 3:22**

Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

* **Colossians 1:16**

for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. **Everything was created through him and for him.**

* **Everything was created through him and for him** for two reasons:
* **1.** To show the immeasurable superiority of Christ over any being above, upon or beneath the earth
* **2.** The material and spiritual world was created for His will, pleasure, and glory
* The reasons we know that Satan is real are
* 1. The devil is mentioned in seven Old Testament books – **Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Zechariah.**
* He is found in 19 New Testament books and is referred to by every New Testament writer.
* He is referred to by our Lord Jesus Christ some 15 times – for example, in **Matthew 4,** Jesus was not arguing with some type of imaginary force in the desert, but with a vile person by the name of Satan

**Matthew 4:10**

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”

* Esther is moving under the guidance of God’s Spirit.
* Her trust is completely in God because she does not know how this situation is going to work out

**Esther 5:9**

9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king’s gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

* Haman is on cloud-nine because he was the only one, besides the King, invited the Queen Esther’s banquet.
* Haman thinks the Queen favored him so much that she invited him to the second banquet
* As Haman walks home, everyone bows to him except Mordecai
* Haman was filled with indignation towards Mordecai because he would not recognize his authority

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**Note:** One would think that a man in Haman’s position would ignore a little thing like Mordecai’s refusal to bow. Haman was filled with pride and anger, which is a dangerous combination.

Pastor Jonathan Parnell says this about anger…

“Anger doesn’t come out of nowhere. It’s not an original emotion. In one degree or another, anger is our response to whatever endangers something we love…anger is actually a form of love…anger is love in motion to deal with a threat to someone or something we truly care about.”

In this case, Haman loved his new position and the reputation that came with it. When Mordecai didn’t bow, it was a threat to his pride. **Proverbs 6:16-19**

16 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:  
 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood,  
 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,  
 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

Q = Does Haman fit any of these categories?

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**Esther 5:10-12**

10 Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. Calling together his friends and Zeresh, *[ze-resh]* his wife,

11 Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials.

12 “And that’s not all,” Haman added. “I’m the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow.

* Haman does not retaliate against Mordecai—he just walks away irritated.
* Out of anger and pride,
* Haman brags about his wealth, children, his political connection with the King, his reputation and the authority that came with his position.
* Haman’s boasting was not out of a heart of gratitude, it was his way of saying, *“Mordecai doesn’t know who he’s messing with. I have the power to put him to death.”*

Q = When is it appropriate to express your pride?

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**Note:** A thought on Pride:

* There is a difference between the kind of pride that God hates—**Proverbs 8:13**

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.

* And the kind of pride we can feel about a job well done—**Galatians 6:4**

But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

* Or the kind of pride we express over the accomplishment of loved ones—**2 Corinthians 7:4**

Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.

The kind of pride that stems from self-righteousness or conceit, God hates because it is a hindrance to seeking Him.—**Psalms 10:3-4**

3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.

4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.

* God loves the humble:
* **1 Peter 5:6**

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you”

* **James 4:6**

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

* **Micah 6:8**

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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**Esther 5:13**

13 But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king’s gate.”

* Haman cannot get over his anger of one person out of hundreds who would not bow to him
* Someone said, “We can tell the size of a person’s heart by the things that irritate that person”
* Haman is doing exactly what God expects him to do—allowing his anger to destroy his life.
* It is not God’s will for us to allow our anger to overrule our lives. **Genesis 4:6-7**

6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?

7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

* Instead of his wife cooling him down and talking sense to him, she throws gasoline on the fire in **verse 14**

**Esther 5:14**

14 His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.

* The wife, Zeresh and his friends encouraged him to kill Mordecai by building a gallows that’s fifty cubits high (75 feet)
* The writer wanted the reader to know the height of the gallows because it expresses how anger and pride will kill if not controlled
* Remember, Mordecai’s name means “little”—he was probably about 5’ 4”
* Why would Haman need a 75-foot gallows to hang a short man upon?
* It revealed his hatred and resentment towards Mordecai and the Jewish people

**Romans 12:17-21**

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.