

ESTHER



Why does one receive mercy
and another judgment?



ESTHER

Esther 7



Esther 7:1-6

So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.

Then Queen Esther answered, If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life, this is my petition. And spare my people this is my request.

For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.

King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, Who is he? Where is he, the man who has dared to do such a thing?

Esther said, An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!

Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen.





Human evil always sets itself against God, and because God is the very definition of goodness and righteousness, divine justice necessarily means the destruction of evil. - Karen Jobes

Is this how God always deals
with evil?





Psalm 7:14-16 (NIV)

Whoever is pregnant with evil
conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment.

Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out
falls into the pit they have made.

The trouble they cause recoils on them;
their violence comes down on their own heads.



God's delay in judgement is
not indifference; it is
purposeful patience.



Esther 7:7-10

The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining.

The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?”

As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman's house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Impale him on it!” So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

OH, LOOK AT THAT



I'VE BEEN IMPALED





This is not a single moment of failure - it is the exposure of a direction that has been forming over time. A pattern where opposition has been building, where pride has gone unchecked, and where resistance has hardened over time.



Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction.

It is far easier to recognize judgment when it is directed at someone else than when it begins to turn toward us.



Am I still open to
being changed?





What we see at the cross is this:
before judgment ever becomes final,
God moves toward a life to make
redemption possible.



What we see at the cross is this: before judgment ever becomes final, God moves toward a life to make redemption possible - but that movement can be resisted, and over time that resistance forms a trajectory that leads somewhere.

It is possible to pursue something that looks like justice on the surface while something very different is taking shape underneath.



Following Jesus does not mean
abandoning justice - but it does
mean refusing to pursue it on
our own terms.





SERMON RESOURCES

