

IF I PERISH, I PERISH
(Esther 5:1-8)

Principle to remember: Walking by faith in the Lord and His Word _____ God (a positive _____ outcome) but does not always guarantee a favorable _____ outcome. (Hebrews 11:6, 8, 24-27, 32-40) This is true regarding your justification before God by faith and your sanctification by faith in time.)

- A. Act I - Let's Understand the PRIMARY FACTORS that LED to the DETHRONING of QUEEN VASHTI. (1:1-22)**
- B. Act II - Let's Understand the PROVIDENTIAL PROCESS that LED to the DECIDING on QUEEN ESTHER. (2:1-18)**
- C. Act III - Let's Understand the PERSONAL PLOT by HAMAN to DESTROY TOTALLY the JEWS. (2:19-3:15)**
- D. Act IV - Let's Understand the PERSONAL CONVICTION of ESTHER to DECISIVELY INTERCEDE for the JEWS. (4:1-17)** Esther 4:14 -16: Some applications for you to internalize:
- (1) Is God still on the throne and providential in your life?
 - (2) Does your life have purpose and meaning in God's plan?
 - (3) What factors emboldened Esther to come to this conviction?
 - (4) Does God know and care what injustices you are suffering? (1 Peter 5:7)
 - (5) What obstacles were against Esther in fulfilling her desire to intercede in seeking to save the Jews?
 - (6) Is there a great need for godly, wise, and courageous ambassadors for Christ and intercessors in our day? (2 Cor. 5:20-21; Isa. 59:16)
- E. Acts V - Let's Understand the WISDOM & COURAGE of ESTHER and the PROVIDENCE of GOD in REVERSING HAMAN'S PLOT to EXTERMINATE the JEWS. (5:1-7:10)**
- 1. Scene #1: ESTHER'S FIRST BANQUET. (5:1-8)**
 - a. Esther wisely and courageously approaches the king. (5:1)**
 - What would be the value of waiting 3 days before approaching the king?
 - What should we observe about her appearance?
 - How does Esther's approach reveal about her growth and maturity?

- Principle to remember: Walking by faith in the Lord does not mean that there is never a time to wisely _____ and courageously _____ based upon our principled and prayerful convictions. In fact, these factors may be, and usually are, an integral part of it.

b. King Ahasuerus *responds favorably* to Esther's bold approach. (5:2)

- Did Esther know with certainty that the king would respond favorably to her appearance and approach?
- Can we have confidence, as believers in Christ, in coming boldly to the throne of grace in our times of need? Why? (Romans 5:1-2; Heb. 10:11-14, 4:14-16)
- What should we remember about “walking” by faith?

c. The king's *question and promised generosity*. (5:3)

- While the generosity of the king is verbally magnanimous, what is true of our requests before the God of all grace?

d. Esther's *initial request to the king to come with Haman to a banquet prepared for the king*. (5:4)

- What do we observe about her approach to the king?
- What should we note about banquets in the book of Esther?
- Why did Esther not initially reveal her real problem and ultimate request to the king? Warren Wiersbe suggests ...
- Some points on prayer to remember:

e. The king's *urgent command and immediate response*. (5:5)

- Does our Father/ King use various means to accomplish His will?
- Does our God always immediately respond to our prayer requests?

f. The king's *second inquiry and Esther's second request*. (5:6-8)

- What is different about Esther's second request?
- Why does Esther remain evasive?
- What was “risky” about this one-day delay from a human standpoint?
- Proverbs 21:1
- What should we take home regarding personal conviction & courage in doing the will of God?