

“Let Us Walk Honestly”
Esther 2:21-23

Introduction:

1. Please Head Back With Me This Morning To:
 - The Book Of Esther:
 - Esther Chapter 2!
 - Where - As We Looked At Last Week:
 - A Big Party Had Just Taken Place All Throughout The Empire Of Persia!
 - It Was A Sumptuous Feast & A Great New Holiday:
 - In Honor Of Their New Queen:
 - Queen Esther! And We Read About This Back In:
 - 2:18 - “Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther’s feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king!”
 - Now - This Is What We Might Call:
 - A “Mountaintop” Experience!
 - And Not Just For The King & His People!
 - But Even For Esther & Her Adoptive Father, Mordecai!
2. Have You Ever Had One Of These:
 - “Mountaintop” Experiences?
 - When Everything Seemed To Be Going Well For You!
 - Maybe At Work Or At School:
 - Or Sometimes You May Even Feel This Way In Your Spiritual Life As Well - In Your Walk With God!
 - Well - What Usually Happens:
 - After You Experience All Of The Enthralling Views From:
 - The Summit Of That Mountaintop?
 - You Have To Come Down, Don’t You?
 - From The Mountaintop:
 - Into The Valley:
 - Where Life Must Still Go On!
3. I Think We See Something Similar Happening:
 - At The End Of Chapter 2:
 - Where We Come to An Episode In The Life Of:
 - Mordecai - Just After Esther Is Given The Royal Crown!
 - An Episode That Reads Like A Parenthesis In The Story - And That Doesn’t Seem To Have Any Relevance To What Just Happened!
 - The Mountaintop Experience Is Over:
 - And Esther Is Queen Over All Persia!
 - But Now What?
 - For Mordecai - Life Goes On!
 - 2:19 - “Mordecai Sat In The King’s Gate!”
4. The Mountaintop Experience Is Left Behind:
 - And Mordecai Once Again:
 - Enters Into The Valley Of The Mundane!
 - But As We Will See - It Is In This Valley:
 - Where God Is Working Too!
 - God - In His Providence & Behind The Scenes - Is Still Working Out His Perfect Will!
 - 2:21-23 - “In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king’s gate, two of the king’s chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. / And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai’s name. / And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king!”
 - In These Verses - I Believe We Can Get An Even Further Glimpse Into The Character Of Mordecai!
 - Because - Even When He Was Living His Life:
 - In The Valley Of The Mundane:
 - He Sought To Live & “Walk Honestly Toward Them That Are Without!” (1 Thess. 4:12)
5. I Also Believe - That We Can Learn From Mordecai:

- In These Verses:
 - How All Of God's People:
 - Should Live Their Lives In This World!
 - All Those Who Have Put Their Faith & Trust In The Lord Jesus Christ To Be Their Savior From Sin!
- When You Are A Christian:
 - You Are Called By Christ Himself As:
 - The "Salt Of The Earth!"
 - And The "Light Of The World!"
 - 1 Peter 2:12 Tells Us That:
 - "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation!"
- We Are To Follow Christ:
 - Not Just In The Mountaintop Experiences Of Our Lives!
 - But Even In The Valley Of The Mundane!
 - Even As Mordecai - There Among The Gentiles Of Persia!
- How Are We To Live?

1. In A Heedful Way!

- Just Like Mordecai In The First Part Of:
 - 2:21 - "In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate!"
 - This Is What Mordecai Did:
 - After The Mountaintop Experience When His Adopted Daughter Became Queen!
 - He Went Back To Doing His Job, In The Valley Of The Mundane!
 - And Yet - How Did He Live & Work & Serve?
 - Diligently & Dutifully!
 - We Can See His Diligence:
 - "In Those Days!"
 - Every Day - Even After Esther Is Queen - He Would Get Up & Head To His Customary Place At The King's Gate!
 - It Was Certainly A Better Job Than Most People Had - But It Was Still A Job! And Yet - Mordecai Remained Diligent!
 - We Can See His Duty:
 - "While Mordecai Sat In The King's Gate!"
 - You Can Still See The Ruins Of This Gate & Entrance To The Great Palace Of Shushan! And You Can Imagine Mordecai Sitting Under The Cramped Portico - Just Doing His Duty!
 - Even In The Valley Of His Mundane:
 - Work-A-Day World:
 - Mordecai Was Heedful To The Position He Was Given!
 - And As We Will Soon See - God Himself - Behind The Scenes:
 - Was Working Through The Diligence Of Mordecai!
 - If This Is How Mordecai Lived & Served:
 - In That Pagan Empire - How Then Should We Live:
 - Our Lives In This World?
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 - "We beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; / And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; / That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing!"
 - Every Christian Is To Live Their Lives:
 - In A Heedful Way!
 - Diligently & Dutifully!
 - Even In Our Own Valleys Of The Mundane!
 - In Whatever Calling God Had Given You In Life:
 - You Need To - "Study To Be Quiet, And To Do Your Own Business, And To Work With Your Own Hands - That You May Walk Honestly Toward Them That Are Without!"
 - Does This Describe Your Life & Work & Service? Diligence & Duty?
 - Because Most Of The Time:
 - This Is Where God Works!
 - In The Valley Of The Mundane! And In The Heedfulness & Diligence & Duty Of His People!
 - And Even Though Mordecai Is An Example To Us - He Is Not Our Greatest Example, Is He? No!

- Jesus Is Our Greatest Example!
 - Who Came To Do His Duty With Diligence!
 - Luke 9:51 Tells Us That - "When the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem!"
 - This Could Describe His Whole Life & Ministry!
 - For 33 Years - His Face Was Set To Serve His Father In Heaven & To Seek & To Save The Lost – You & Me!
- He Gave His Life For You!
 - Will You Live Your Life For Him?
 - In A Heedful Way?
 - Doing Your Duty With Diligence!
 - Can! Need To Rely On His Power & Strength:
 - And Rest In The Knowledge That God Is Still Working - Even In The Valley Of The Mundane!

* We Also Need To Live:

2. ***In An Honorable Way!***

- Even As We See Mordecai Living In:
 - 2:21-22 - "In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate [Diligently Carrying Out His Duties], two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. / And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen!"
 - It "Just So Happened" That While Mordecai Was Doing His Duty:
 - He "Caught Wind" Of One Of The Palace Intrigues - That Were Actually Very Common Back Then!
 - So Common In Fact - That King Xerxes Would Eventually Be Assassinated By The Commander Of His Own Bodyguard, Less Than 15 Years Later! 465 BC!
 - "Two Of The King's Chamberlains" Who Also:
 - "Kept The Door" - For Some Reason Were Angry With The King & Conspired To Assassinate Him!
 - Now - These Two Men Apparently Had Access To The King & Had The Ability To Kill The King! **IE:** They Were Probably 2 Of The King's Personal "Secret Service Agents!" And Guarded The Door To The King's Chamber!
 - But Somehow - 2:22 - "The Thing Was Known To Mordecai!"
 - Did He Overhear Their Conversation?
 - Did They Try To Get Him To Help Them?
 - Did Someone Else Tell Him?
 - We Don't Know - But Mordecai Was Like The "Bird Of The Air" That Would "Carry Their Voice" Into The Ears Of The King!
- Now - Imagine:
 - The Dilemma Mordecai Faced!
 - The Potential Danger He Faced!
 - And Then - The Decision He Made!
 - He Chose To:
 - "Fear God & Honour the king!" (1 Peter 2:17)
 - He Remained Faithful & Loyal:
 - To The Authority God Had Placed Over Him & His People At That Time!
 - Which Was The Right & Honorable Thing To Do!
 - And Even Through This God Himself - Behind The Scenes:
 - Continues To Work Through The Honor & Loyalty Of Mordecai!
- If This Is How Mordecai Lived & Served:
 - That Pagan King - How Then Should We Live:
 - Our Lives In This World?
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-4 - "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; / For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. / For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; / Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth!"
 - Every Christian Is To Live Their Lives:
 - In An Honorable Way!
 - In Whatever Place God Has Put You:
 - You Need To "Fear God & Honor The King!"
 - And The Authorities God Has Placed In Your Life:

- “That You May Lead A Quiet And Peaceable Life In All Godliness And Honesty!”

- Because Most Of The Time:

- This Is When God Works!

- When His People “Honor” Him & His Word & Strive To Be Faithful!

- And Even Though Mordecai Is An Example To Us Of This:

- Jesus Is Our Greatest Example!

- Who Said - “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar’s, and unto God the things which be God’s!” (Luke 20:25)

- Are You Honoring The Lord:

- And The Authorities He Has Placed In Your Life?

- We Are To - “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour!” (Romans 13:7)

- And Only When Man’s Will Conflicts With God’s Will Are We To: “Obey God Rather Than Men!” (Acts 5:29)

- But Even Then We Can Remember That God Is Still Working!

* We Also Need To Live In:

3. ***A Humble Way!***

- Like Mordecai In:

- 2:22 - “And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai’s name!”

- Remember - At This Point - The Relationship Between Esther & Mordecai Is Still Not Known!

- But Who Does Mordecai Tell When He Learns Of The Conspiracy?

- To The Queen! His Adopted Daughter!

- And It Appears That This Was Done:

- Not For Gain!

- Mordecai Had An Opportunity To Make A Name For Himself:

- But From The Text - It Does Not Appear As If He Was The One Who Wanted The Credit!

- In The Words Of George Lawson - “It Was Sufficient For Mordecai To Do His Duty!”

- Instead - It Appears As If It Was:

- Esther’s Own Idea - To “Certify The King Thereof In Mordecai’s Name!”

- And She Would Have Done So:

- Out Of Gratitude!

- She Loved Mordecai & Was Grateful To Him!

- And Now - She Found An Opportunity To Return

His Kindness:

- And Give Him The Credit!

- And Where Is God In All Of This?

- He Is Still Working Out His Own Will:

- Behind The Scenes!

- Working Through The Humility Of Mordecai & The Kindness Of Esther!

- If This Is How Mordecai Lived & Served:

- How Then Should We Live?

- 1 Timothy 6:6 - “But godliness with contentment is great gain!”

- Every Christian Is To Live Their Lives:

- In A Humble Way!

- Not Thinking That “Gain Is Godliness!”

- But That “Godliness With Contentment Is Great Gain!”

- Even As Jesus Was Humble!

- Philippians 2:5-8 - “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: / Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: / But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: / And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!”

- Is The Mind & Humility Of Christ In You?

- Do You See What Real “Gain” & “Great Gain” Actually Is? “Godliness With Contentment!”

- Because Most Of The Time:

- This Is How God Works!

- In & Through The Humility Of His People! Look To & Learn From Jesus!

* We Further Need To Live In:

4. *An Honest Way!*

- Which We See In The First Part Of:
 - 2:23 - “And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree!”
 - So - The King Had The Persian FBI Look Into The Matter:
 - And After The “Inquisition” & Investigation:
 - “It Was Found Out!”
 - It Was Discovered That Everything:
 - Mordecai Had Told Esther:
 - Was The Truth! The Whole Truth & Nothing But The Truth!
 - Mordecai Wanted Nothing To Do With The Palace Intrigue!
 - He Simply Wanted The Truth To Be Known!
- Mordecai Was An Honest Man!
 - The Proof Was Given Truthfully:
 - And The Punishment Was Given:
 - Swiftly - “They Were Both Hanged” Or Impaled “On A Tree!”
- If This Is How Mordecai Lived & Served:
 - How Much More Should We Live:
 - According To The Truth That We Have Been Given?
 - Philippians 4:8 - We Are To Think On “Whatsoever Things Are True!”
 - Zechariah 8:16 - We Are To “Speak every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates!”
 - The Truth That You Are To Think About:
 - The Truth That You Are To Speak:
 - And The Truth That You Are To Live:
 - Is A Reflection Of The Truth Of Our Savior Himself!
 - John 14:6 - “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!”
- God’s Will Is Always:
 - The Truth! Which Is Why: Ephesians 4:2 - “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour!”
 - We Need To Live Honestly!
 - And Last:

* We Need To Live In:

5. *A Hopeful Way!*

- After The Execution Of The King’s Two Chamberlains:
 - We Would Expect There To Be A Reward:
 - For The One Who Informed & Warned The King Of Their Treason!
 - And Yet - Even Though This Would Have Been:
 - A Pretty “Big Deal” For Mordecai:
 - It Seems To Not Have Been Such A “Big Deal” To The Persians!
 - It Might Have Been Just One Of Many Plans & Attempts That Failed! Perhaps It Was Just “Par For The Course” Of King Xerxes!
- But - As We Read In 2:23 - “It was written in the book of the chronicles before the king!”
 - It May Not Yet Have Been Rewarded:
 - But It Was Recorded!
 - Once Again - A Seemingly Small Detail That God Will Use To Accomplish His Will In The Lives Of His People!
 - But Mordecai Would Have To Wait:
 - And Perhaps Even To Wonder:
 - Why Was His Loyalty Overlooked?
 - Why Was His Honor Forgotten?
- This Shows Us Once Again How:
 - Those Who Belong To Christ Ought To Live Their Lives!
 - Because - Even Though Your:
 - Work Might Be Forgotten By This World:
 - It Will Never Be Forgotten By The Lord!
 - Even When You Are Faithfully Serving Him:
 - In The Valley Of The Mundane - Remember:

- Hebrews 6:10 - "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister!"
- We Have A Greater Hope In Christ:
 - Than Even Mordecai Had In The King!
 - But - Perhaps Mordecai Understood This As Well!
 - Mordecai Even Seems To Be Watching & Thinking About How God Is Still Working Behind The Scenes!

Conclusion:

1. We Need To Remember This Morning:
 - That Even When We Feel Like We Are Living In:
 - The Valley Of The Mundane:
 - God Is Still Working!
 - And He Is Still Working In & Through The Hearts & Lives Of His People!
 - When You Live:
 - In These Ways - As Mordecai Lived:
 - In A Heedful Way!
 - In An Honorable Way!
 - In A Humble Way!
 - In An Honest Way!
 - In A Hopeful Way!
 - These Are Often The Instruments God Uses:
 - Behind The Scenes - In His Providence:
 - To Accomplish His Will In This World!
2. What We Are Witnessing In The Book Of Esther Is That:
 - Even Before The Threat Of The Destruction Of God's People:
 - Is Exposed – God Is Already At Work:
 - Preparing For The Deliverance Of His People!
 - How Many Times:
 - Do We Look For God's Work & God's Miracles:
 - In The "Mountaintop" Experiences Of Our Lives!
 - And Yet - How Many Times:
 - Do We Forget About:
 - God's Work & God's Miracles:
 - In What We Consider The Mundane!
 - We Must Not Forget:
 - How "God Swings Big Doors On Small Hinges!"
3. So - Keep Trusting The Lord:
 - And His Will & His Work:
 - Even In The Mundane, Ordinary Times Of Your Life!
 - And Keep Living For:
 - And Living Like Christ:
 - In Every Area Of Your Life!
 - By Faith:
 - Live Heedfully, Honorably, Humbly, Honestly, Hopefully!
 - Remember - As A Child Of God - That:
 - "Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me!" (Galatians 2:20)

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