

“Grace To The Humble”
Esther 2:12-20

Introduction:

1. Before We Celebrate The Lord’s Supper Together This Morning:
 - I Would Like For Us To Continue Our Series:
 - Through The Book Of Esther!
 - When We Come To Our Text For This Morning:
 - 2:12-20 - We Find The Persian Beauty Pageant Underway:
 - That We Learned About Last Week!
 - And I Believe We Will Find A Special Principle At Work:
 - That We Find In 1 Peter 5:5 - “God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble!”
 - He “Giveth Grace To The Humble!”
 - And The Need For God’s Grace Is Clearly Needed:
 - When We Read About:

1. A Special Procedure!

- In 2:12-14 - “Now when every maid’s turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with other things for the purifying of the women;) / 13 Then thus came every maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king’s house. / 14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king’s chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name!”
 - This Was The Special Procedure Made Up By The King’s Advisors In Order To Help Him Find Their New Queen!
 - But We Need To Remember That This So-Called “Pageant” Was Really All About One Thing:
 - To Please The King!
 - It Wasn’t About The People!
 - It Wasn’t About These Maidens!
 - It Was All About Him!
 - And So - In 2:12 - We Learn About:
 - The Turn For Each Maid:
 - “Now When Every Maid’s Turn Was Come To Go In To King Ahasuerus!”
 - There’s No Way To Sugar-Coat This Revolting Process!
 - Every One Of The Young Women Who Were Uprooted From Their Families Would Have A “Turn” To Spend A Night – A Single Night – With The King And Try To Please & Satisfy Him Enough To Be Chosen As His New Queen!
 - And In The Process - Each Young Woman - Even If She Did Not Become The Queen:
 - Became One Of The King’s Many Wives Or Concubines!
 - But In Order For These Young Ladies To Be The Very Best:
 - We Also Read About:
 - The Treatment For Each Maid:
 - 2:12 - “Twelve Months” - For Her “Purifications!”
 - The “Fair Young Virgins” Had To Be:
 - Pure & Presentable Before They Could Go Into The King’s Chamber!
 - This Seems Absurd!
 - After All:
 - Just How Physically “Impure” Could These Young Women Be?
 - And How “Pure” Was The King Himself?
 - But For 12 Months - These Young Women Were:
 - Bathed & Rubbed & Fumigated With All Kinds Of Oils & Perfumes!
 - It Wasn’t A “Spa Day” - It Was A “Spa Year!”
 - How **Proud** Must The King Have Been:
 - To Require All This Of These Young Women:
 - To Spend Just One Night In His Bed!
 - But When Those 12 Months Came To An End - We Find:
 - The Test For Each Maid:

- 2:13 - "Then Thus Came Every Maiden Unto The King!"
 - And She Could Take With Her:
 - Anything She "Desired" To Make Herself More Appealing & Memorable To The King!
- After All - Each Maiden Had Only One Chance!
 - So - They "Dressed To Impress!"
 - The Most Beautiful & Colorful Dresses:
 - And Jewelry & Other Ornaments!
 - Perhaps Some Came Unto The King With Music & Ladies-In-Waiting!
- And So - For Each Maid - The Night Eventually Came:
 - 2:14 - "In The Evening She Went, And On The Morrow She Returned Into The Second House Of The Women!"
 - And With This - We See:
- The Trouble For Each Maid:
 - If The Young Woman Was Not Chosen To Become Queen:
 - She Was Not Free To Just Go Home!
 - No - She Still Belonged To The King:
 - As Was Put Once Again "In Custody" In The King's Harem!
 - And Instead Of Being Married - "Happily Ever After!"
 - 2:14 - "She Came In Unto The King No More, Except The King Delighted In Her, And That She Were Called By Name!"
 - And So - How Many Of Those Maidens:
 - Were Forgotten?
 - Never Remembered & Never Recalled?
 - They Would Have A Life Of Sadness & Solitude To Look Forward To!
- What A Sad Thing We Have Just Read:
 - In These Verses!
 - It Is Not So Glamorous After All!
 - But God Still Had A Plan Through All Of This!
- And So - In Stark Contrast To The King:
 - God - In His Providence - Demonstrates How He Will Never Forget His People!
 - He Will Always Remember & Recall - By His Grace - Those Who Belong To Him!
 - Even By Name! And We Discover This When We Read About:

2. *A Special Promotion!*

- The Promotion Of Esther - In 2:15-18 - "Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. / 16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. / 17 And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti. / 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!"
 - Even Though God's Name Is Not Mentioned In Any Of These Verses:
 - God Is Still At Work! Even Using & Overruling The Whims Of A King To Accomplish His Perfect Will!
 - Even Through:
- The Compliance Of Esther:
 - 2:15 - When It Was Her "Turn" - It Appears That Esther:
 - Did Her Duty - She Did What Was Expected Of Her - And Entered The Bed-Chamber Of That Godless & Uncircumcised King!
 - Now, For A Jew - This Would Have Been An Unspeakable Thing To Do!
 - Yet - We Read Nothing About Esther Like We Read Of The Prophet Daniel - When He Was In Babylon:
 - Daniel 1:8 - "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat!"
 - But Esther Went In & Defiled Herself With The King Himself!
 - Now - We Cannot Enter Into The Heart & Mind Of Esther:
 - About This Dilemma She Faced:
 - But Doesn't God Often Overrule & Use Our Own Weakness & Sin To Accomplish His

Plan?

- Perhaps There *Was* A Spiritual Struggle About This For Esther - But It Appeared To Her That God Was Already Working Out His Will Through Her!
- We Just Can't Tell! But We Can See:

- The Contentment Of Esther:

- 2:15 - "She Required Nothing" Except What Was:
 - "Appointed" For Her!
 - In 2:13 - Every Young Maiden Could Bring Anything She "Desired!"
- But Here - Esther Took Nothing Else:
 - But What Was Given To Her! A Difference!
 - Doesn't This Give Us A Peek Into The Character Of Esther!
- See - God Had Already Prepared Her:
 - Given Her All She Needed To Appear Before The King!
 - On The Outside & On The Inside:
- 2:15 - "And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her!"
 - God Providentially Directed The Hearts Of Everyone Toward Esther!
 - And He Does The Same With The King!

- The Choice Of Esther:

- 2:16-17 - "So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. / And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti!"
 - The King Was Smitten With All The Charms Of Esther!
- The Contest Was Over!
 - The New Queen Was Chosen!
 - And Then - It Was Time To Celebrate!

- The Celebration Of Esther:

- 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!"
 - It Seems Here As If The King Might Have Learned Some Lessons From The First Feast!
 - Was There A Change Of Heart, To Some Extent, When He Met & Married Esther?
 - This Feast Was To Introduce & Honor Esther – His New Queen!

- But All This Leads Us To See:

3. *A Special Purpose!*

- In These Verses - Especially In 2:18-19 - "And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king's gate. / Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him!"
 - All The While - God Was Providentially Working Out His Will:
 - While Showing His "Grace To The Humble!"
 - And In These Verses - I Believe We Are Given Another Peek Into The Character Of Moredecai & Esther! We See:
 - God's Grace Unto Mordecai:
 - As He Is Now Sitting "In The King's Gate!" (2:18)
 - This Would Have Been A Rather Prominent Position:
 - Perhaps Like A Judge!
 - But - It Is Pretty Clear - That This Position:
 - Was Not Obtained Because Of His Relationship With Esther!
 - Remember 2:10 - "Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it!"
 - Esther's People - Were The Jewish People!
 - Esther's Kindred - Was Her Immediate Family - Her Deceased Parents - And Her Adoptive Father - Mordecai!
 - His Adopted Daughter Is Now The Queen Of All Persia!
 - And He Could Have Used That Connection:
 - To Get Much Further Ahead!
 - Not Just At The King's Gate, But In The King's Court Or In The King's House Itself!

- But He Didn't!
- Mordecai Appears To Be A Humble Man!
 - And God Gave His Grace To Humble Mordecai:
 - So That He Could Still Be Close To Esther & Care For Her As He Had Her Whole Life!
 - Also See:
- God's Grace Unto Esther:
 - As She Is Now The Queen Of The Persian Empire!
 - "From India Even Unto Ethiopia – 127 Provinces!"
 - And Yet - Still We Read In:
 - 2:20 - "Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him!"
 - In This - Esther Appears To Be A Humble Young Woman!
 - Because - Even With All Of Her Power As Queen:
 - She Still Remembered The One Who Adopted Her As A Child!
 - She Loved Mordecai!
 - She Was Grateful To Mordecai!
 - And So She Listened To & Honored Mordecai's Wishes – Even As Queen!
 - And God Gave His Grace To Humble Esther!
 - But I Believe We Can Also See:
 - Through The Lens Of The Rest Of Scripture:
- God's Grace Unto You & Me:
 - And How When We:
 - "Humble Ourselves In The Sight Of The Lord – He Shall Lift Us Up!"
 - Just Think Of God's Grace **To You** & What He Has Done **For You!**

Conclusion:

* If You Are A Child Of God This Morning:

- He Has Given You:

1. A Greater Purification:

- Than Esther!
 - Remember - It Took 12 Whole Months To Primp & Preen Esther & All The Other Young Women So That They Could Appear Before The King – For Just One Night!
 - And Even Then - There Was Such Little Chance For Them To Become Queen!
- But All The Purification You & I Need:
 - To Appear Before God Himself:
 - Can Be Found In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Titus 2:14 Tells Us That Jesus - "Gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify** unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works!"
 - And Ephesians 5:25-27 Tells Us That:
 - "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; / That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, / That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish!"
 - And So - We Must Not Rely On Anyone Or Anything Else To Clean Us & Purify Us From Our Impurity & Our Sin:
 - Except The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - "What Can Wash Away My Sin? Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus!"
- But - If You Are Trusting Jesus To Cleanse You Through His Blood:
 - He Has Also Given You:

2. A Greater Preparation:

- Than Esther!
 - Esther Was Content When She "Required Nothing" Except What Had Already Been Given & "Appointed" To Her!
 - She Was Content Because She Was Complete!
- And All The Preparation You & I Need:
 - To Enter Into The Presence Of The King Of The Universe:
 - God Himself – Has Already Been Given To Us:

- In The Lord Jesus Christ!
- Colossians 2:10 Tells Us That:
 - “Ye Are Complete In Him!”
 - In Fact - When You Have Jesus Christ As Your Savior - You Truly Have All You Need!
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30 - “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption!”
 - All The Wisdom You Need:
 - You Will Find In Jesus!
 - All The Righteousness You Need:
 - You Will Find In Jesus!
 - All The Sanctification You Need:
 - Jesus Will Provide!
 - And The Redemption You Need:
 - Jesus Himself Has Accomplished!
- And So - Like Esther - You “Require Nothing” Else!
 - You Too Can Be Content – Because In Christ:
 - You Are Complete!
 - “Nothing In My Hand I Bring, Simply To Thy Cross I Cling!”
 - But God Has Also Given:

3. ***A Greater Promotion!***

- Than Esther!
 - In His Providence - God Took The Humble Esther:
 - And Elevated Her To The Position Of Queen:
 - Over All Of The Great Persian Empire!
 - A Powerful Promotion!
 - But A Temporary Promotion!
 - In 2:19 - We Read How “The Virgins Were Gathered Together The Second Time!”
 - This Was Likely A Second Assembly Of Young Women - Offered To The King From All Over The Empire:
 - To Continue To Satisfy His Pride & His Lust!
 - For Esther - There Would Always Be Competition!
 - Her Story Was Not A Cinderella Story!
- But Consider The Promotion Given To Us By God:
 - When We Are Saved By The Lord Jesus Through Faith!
 - John Tells Us In Revelation 1:8 How Jesus:
 - “Washed us from our sins in his own blood, / And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father!”
 - What A Promotion For Sinners & Rebels Like Us!
- And Yet - This Promotion Will Be A Timeless Promotion!
 - Remember - “God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble!” (1 Peter 5:5)
 - But There Is Another Gracious Gift That I Would Like For Us To Consider - And That Is:

4. ***A Greater Pleasure!***

- Than Esther!
 - When The King Wanted To Celebrate His New Queen:
 - He Made A Feast!
 - And Called It “Esther’s Feast!”
 - But Even This Lavish Feast Can Never Compare:
 - To The Feast Being Prepared Right Now:
 - For The Lord Jesus Christ & His Bride:
 - Which Is The Church!
 - And Includes Every One Who Has “Believed On The Lord Jesus Christ” & Is Saved!
 - In Revelation 19:9 - We Read:
 - “Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb!”
 - This Future Feast Is The Christian’s Feast!
 - And The Celebration Will Last For All Eternity!
- Will You Be Called To This Feast?

- Has There Been A Seat Prepared For You At:
 - This “Marriage Supper Of The Lamb”?

* Do You See How Everything That God Graciously & Providentially:

- Provided To Mordecai & Esther:
 - Was So That You & I Could Also Experience:
 - God’s Grace!
- And So - Let Us Humble Ourselves:
 - Because Of His Great Grace!
 - 1 Peter 5:6 - “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time!”
- First - You Need To Humble Yourself:
 - As A Sinner Before This Mighty & Holy God!
 - In Repentance & Faith In Jesus Christ!
- Then - We Need To Humble Ourselves:
 - As His Saints - With Gratitude & Love & Obedience:
 - To His Will - Even As Esther!
 - Because - “God Resisteth The Proud, And Giveth Grace – His Grace – All This Grace – Unto The Humble!”

* At This Time - We Will Prepare For:

- The Lord’s Supper - Which Is Just A “Taste-Test” Of
 - The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb:
 - Which Every True Christian:
 - Will One Day Enjoy!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com