

***“Throne Of Grace”***  
***Esther 5:1-8***

**Introduction:**

1. Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me To:
  - Esther Chapter 5:
    - As We Return To Our Study Of The Word Of God:
      - This Morning!
    - If You Recall Where We Left Off Last Week:
      - Esther Called For Her Father - Mordecai:
        - And All Of The Jews In Shushan To Fast With Her:
          - As She Prepared Herself To Go Before Her Husband – The King – To Plea For The Lives Of Her People!
      - And So - For 3 Days & 3 Nights:
        - They Fasted!
2. And All This Was Necessary Because:
  - Of The Strict Law We Learned About:
    - In 4:11 - “All the king’s servants, and the people of the king’s provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days!”
      - Esther Was Risking Her Life:
        - To Just Appear Before The King Without Being Called / Summoned!
  - And So - They Fasted!
    - But After Those 3 Days:
      - The Time For Fasting:
        - Had Passed!
      - And The Time For Acting:
        - Had Arrived!
3. And When We Come To Esther Chapter 5:
  - We Find One Of The Most Dramatic Scenes:
    - In All Of Biblical & Jewish History:
      - Unfolding Before Our Very Eyes!
        - And We See - First:

**1. *Esther’s Approach To The King!***

- In 5:1 - “Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king’s house, over against the king’s house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house!”
  - You Can Almost “Feel” The Tension & Tentativeness:
    - In This Verse!
      - It Even Feels Like Everything Is Going In Slow Motion:
        - Like A Director Might Do In A Movie - For Effect!
  - What Takes Place In This Verse Is A Very Solemn & Serious Event In The Life Of Queen Esther:
    - And For All Of God’s People!
      - The Threat Of Her Own Death & Destruction Looms Over Every Word / Every Motion / Every Step As Esther Approaches The King!
        - And Even Still - Esther Approaches The King:
  - With A Purpose!
    - A Great Purpose!
      - God Had Opened Her Eyes & Her Heart:
        - To The Plight Of Her Own People!
          - God’s People!
    - This Purpose & This Cause:
      - Compelled Her To Do Her Duty:
        - On That Third Day Of The Fast!
          - She Could Not Delay Any Further! The Time Had Come!

- And So - She Approaches The King:
- With Preparation!
  - She - "Put On Her Royal Apparel!"
    - Probably With The Assistance Of Her:
      - Maidens - Esther Is Dressed In All Of Her:
        - Queenly Regalia!
  - She Was Not Just Going Before The King:
    - As His Wife - She Was There:
      - In Her Official Capacity As Queen!
        - And This Required A "Dignified Modesty" As She Would Enter "The Inner Court Of The King's House!"
  - And Then The Time Came!
    - As Soon As She Entered The "Inner Court" - She Had Reached The Point Of No Return:
      - And Esther's Life Hung In The Balance!
        - She Approaches The King:
- With Poise!
  - She "Stood In The Inner Court Of The King's House!"
    - Right Where The King & All Of His Officials & Servants Could See Her!
      - And There She "Stood" - "Between Hope & Fear!" (MH)
        - Her Life Was Now In The King's Hands!
  - Imagine The Tension!
    - Even Though The King Didn't Sense It:
      - Esther Did! Everyone Else Did!
        - Probably Many Questions!
  - How Would The King Feel About This:
    - Intrusion By The Queen?
      - What Would He Say? Do?
        - How Long Did Esther Stand There In The Inner Court?
    - Was She Starting To Wonder:
      - About What She Was Doing?
        - Was She Starting To Worry:
          - And Second-Guess Herself?
  - And Yet - There She Stood!
    - With Great Poise!
      - Modest & Meek - Not Saying A Word!
- She Approached The King:
  - This Way - Because Of His Greatness!
    - He Was A Great King!
      - Great In His Position & His Power!
        - He Had The Absolute Right To Have Esther Killed On The Spot!
  - But As Great As This King Was:
    - God Is Still Greater!
      - Proverbs 21:1 - "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will!"
  - And So - In The Silence Of Those Moments:
    - As Esther Stood Before The King:
      - The Lord Turned The Heart Of The King Once Again Toward Esther:
        - And We Read Of:

## 2. ***Esther's Acceptance By The King!***

- 5:2-3 - "And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre!"
  - What A Relief Must Have Swept Over The Mind & Heart Of Queen Esther!
    - The King - Her Husband - Whom She Had Not Seen For 30 Days:
      - Could Have Been Angry With Esther!
        - After All - She Broke One Of His Laws To Even Be There!
  - But He Must Have Sensed:

- That There Was Some Urgent Matter:
  - For Her To Risk Her Own Life:
  - To Appear Before Him!
  - So - We See:
- The King's Passion For Esther!
  - "She Obtained Favor In His Sight!"
    - His Heart Was Moved At The Presence & At The Sight Of His Beautiful Queen!
    - He Remembered Her:
      - And All That He Had Loved About Her!
  - And Yet - At That Same Moment:
    - His Queen Was In Danger!
      - The Law Was Clear - Esther Was To Be Put To Death For Entering His Presence!
      - Her Life Was Now In His Hands!
      - And There Was Only One Exception To This Law!
  - And So - We Read - With A Moved & Melted Heart:
- The King's Protection Of Esther!
  - "The King Held Out To Esther The Golden Sceptre That Was In His Hand!"
    - She Was Granted Mercy:
      - And Esther's Life Was Spared!
  - Now - Imagine The Thoughts & Emotions:
    - That Must Have Flooded Into Esther's Mind & Heart At That Very Moment!
    - Great Relief!
    - And So:
  - "Esther Drew Near, And Touched The Top Of The Sceptre!"
    - She Must Have Been Overwhelmed With:
      - Gratefulness - Not Just To The King - But To The Lord Himself!
      - But She Has Yet To Say A Single Word!
  - Instead - It Will Be The King Who Breaks The Silence:
    - When We Read Of:
- The King's Provision For Esther!
  - So Moved By The Modesty & Meekness Of His Queen:
    - And Knowing That Only An Emergency Would Have Caused Her To Risk Her Life To Appear Before Him:
      - He Offers Her Whatever Her Heart Desires!
  - 5:3 - "Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom!"
    - And With Those Words:
- Esther Was Accepted By The King:
  - Because Of His Grace:
    - And His Favor To Her!
      - Even Though This Seems To Be Out Of Character For This King:
        - God Was Able To Move & Turn His Heart, Even As "Rivers Of Water!"
  - But As Gracious As This King Was To Esther:
    - The Lord's Grace Is Greater!
      - Psalm 103:8 - "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy!"
    - And God Was Even Using This Heathen King:
      - To Display & Offer His Grace:
        - To His People - In Spite Of Their Frequent Sins & Rebellion Against Him!
  - But Then - We Read Of:

### 3. *Esther's Attitude Toward The King!*

- In 5:4-5 - "And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. / Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared!"
  - Now - What Would You Have Said / Done:
    - If The King Offered To Honor Your Request:
      - Whatever It Was - Up To "Half Of The Kingdom!"

- Blur It Out - Right Then, Right There?
- Not Esther!
  - We Must Not Fail To Remember Just How Dangerous This Was For Esther!
  - And Just How Much Her Life Was At Risk!
  - And So - I Believe When Esther Asks The King To Her Banquet - Along With Haman - She Must Have Been Full Of Gratitude!
- And This Thankfulness Could Be Seen In Her:
- Attitude Of Favor:
  - Toward The King!
    - Esther Finally Speaks - Not About Her - But About Him - "If It Seem Good Unto The King!"
    - Even Her Initial Request Was About The King's Pleasure & Will! Also An:
- Attitude For Fellowship:
  - At A Banquet!
    - Which - In Persia - Would Have Been Quite:
      - The Experience!
    - It Was A Sumptuous Feast:
      - With Several Courses Of Food - Including Meats / Breads / Fruit - And Toward The End - Abundant Wine!
      - All The Best - Fit For The King!
  - And So - She Invites The King:
    - To This Banquet!
      - Perhaps This Is Where She Was Initially Planning To Make Her Appeal To The King!
      - Seem Likely - Since She Invited Haman To Attend As Well!
  - But - Even Though Esther Needs The Kings Help:
    - It Appears That She Is Genuinely Grateful:
      - And Wants To Please & Honor Her Husband – The King!
      - But We Also See An:
- Attitude Of Faith:
  - Esther Describes The Banquet As:
    - "The Banquet That I Have Prepared!"
    - For Three Days - Esther Fasted:
      - But Also - During Those Three Days - Esther Prepared For This Feast!
  - Her Doubts & Fears:
    - Were Clearly Overcome By Faith! And So:
- Esther Displayed This Attitude Toward The King:
  - Not Merely Because Of:
    - The King's Goodness To Her:
      - But - Even More - Because Of God's Goodness To Her!
      - Psalm 34:8 - "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him!"
  - Perhaps Esther Was Now Starting To See:
    - The Pieces Of The Puzzle Of God's Providence Coming Together:
      - For Herself!
  - And Esther Was Truly Grateful!
    - Grateful For How The King's Heart Had Turned So Completely Toward Her!
    - And I Believe That This Attitude Of:
      - Gratitude Is What Leads To:

#### **4. *Esther's Appeal To The King!***

- When - Toward The End Of The Banquet:
  - 5:6 - The King Repeated His Offer To Esther:
    - "And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed!"
    - These Words Are Very Similar To The Words Of 5:3 - But There Seems To Be An Even Greater Desire By The King To Know What Esther's Burden & Need Was!
- And - It Seems As It Would Have Been:
  - The Prime Time For Esther To Finally Tell Him:
    - And Make Her Appeal!

- In Fact - In 5:7 - You Can Even Sense Her Getting Ready To Pour Out Her Heart To The King - With:
  - Her Words:
    - 5:7 - “Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is!”
      - She Uses The Same Words As The King Does:
        - In 5:6!
    - But Then - She Stops Short!
      - She Doesn’t Give To The King Her “Petition & Request!”
        - Instead - She Once Again Appeals To The King’s Favor & Grace To Her:
    - 5:8 - “If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said!”
      - For Whatever Reason:
        - She Senses That It Is Not Yet Time For Her To Make Her Final Appeal:
          - That Would Have To Wait Until The Following Day!
  - Her Waiting:
    - Now - What Would Cause Esther:
      - To Stop Short Of:
        - Unloading Her Burden To The King?
          - Who Seems Ready, Willing & Able To Fulfill Whatever Request She Had!
    - Some Think That This Was Just Part:
      - Of Esther’s Master Plan!
        - And She Was Just “Reeling” The King In To Get Him To Do What She Wanted!
    - However - It Seems To Me - That At This First Feast:
      - She Really Was Planning To Make Her Appeal For Her People:
        - But She Was So Overwhelmed With Gratitude - Toward Him & Toward The Lord - Her Life Had Just Been Spared - That She Just Enjoyed Honoring / Serving / Pleasing Him!
    - But Whatever Reason Esther Had In Her Own Heart & Mind:
      - It Was The Providence Of God Himself:
        - That Postponed Esther’s Appeal Until The Next Day!
          - And The Rest Of Chapter 5 Shows Us Why!
  - And So - Esther Prepared Herself Once Again To:
    - Appeal To The King:
      - Based On His Generosity To Her:
        - And To Meet Whatever Need Was On Her Heart!

## **Conclusion:**

1. Now - Even Though This Dramatic Scene Unfolds:
  - In The Overall Story Of Esther:
    - I Believe That We Have Another Inspired Illustration:
      - For Us As Believers - In How We Too Can Come Before The Lord – Our King!
  - Remember The Words Of Hebrews 4:15-16:
    - “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. / Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need!”
  - We Can Approach The Lord:
    - Because Of His Greatness!
      - And All The “Preparation” Has Been Done For Us Through The Lord!
        - We Are Already - “Dressed In His Righteousness Alone, Faultless To Stand Before The Throne!”
    - We Have A Great God!
      - So - “Let Us Therefore Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace!”
  - We Are Accepted By The Lord:
    - Because Of His Grace!
      - Luke 11:9-10 - “And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. / For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened!”
        - An Open Door Policy! Invitation!

- We Have A Gracious God!
    - So - "Let Us Therefore Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace!"
  - We Can Have An Attitude:
    - Of Gratitude To The Lord:
      - Because Of His Goodness!
        - Matthew 7:11 - "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"
    - We Have A Good God!
      - So - "Let Us Therefore Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace!"
        - Faith / Fellowship!
  - We Can Appeal To The Lord:
    - Because Of His Generosity!
      - 1 Peter 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you!"
        - Love!
    - We Have A Generous God!
      - So - "Let Us Therefore Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace!"
2. "Esther Came To A Proud, Imperious Man; We Come To The God Of Love And Grace! She Was Not Called, We Are: The Spirit Says Come, And The Bride Says Come! She Had A Law Against Her, We Have A Promise, Many A Promise In Favor Of Us: Ask And It Shall Be Given You! She Had No Friend To Introduce Her, Or Intercede For Her – But We Have An Advocate With The Father, In Who He Is Well Pleased!"
- So - "Let Us Therefore Come Boldly Unto The Throne Of Grace!"
    - "That We May Obtain Mercy, And Find Grace To Help In Time Of Need!"

***Grace Baptist Church***  
***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***  
***4245 North 200 West***  
***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***  
***317-326-2362***  
***[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)***  
***[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)***  
***[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)***