

“A Tender Heart”
Esther 8:3-6

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back Together To:
 - Esther 8 This Morning - As We Remember:
 - How God, In His Providence, Has Already Intervened:
 - For The Welfare Of His People, The Jews!
 - Even Though The Lord Is Not ***Named***:
 - We Know That The Lord Has ***Moved***:
 - The King - King Ahasuerus - To Do Several Things For Queen Esther & Her People!
 - The King Has Already:
 - Executed Haman - The Great Enemy Of The Jews:
 - And Of The Lord Himself!
 - The King Has Already:
 - Granted Lavish Gifts:
 - Upon Esther:
 - Giving Her The Entire Estate Of Haman!
 - And The King Has Already:
 - Promoted Mordecai:
 - To Become The New Prime Minister:
 - In Place Of Haman Himself!
2. But As We Come To Verse 3:
 - We Have A Feeling That Something Is Still Missing!
 - Something Is Still Absent!
 - Because - Even Though The King Had Offered Esther Up To ½ Of His Kingdom - He Had ***Not*** Yet Fulfilled Her Greatest Desire And Burden:
 - Which Was The Complete Deliverance Of Her People!
 - Remember What Esther's "Petition & Request" Was?
 - 7:3-4b - "Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: / For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish!"
3. Now - The King Might Have Thought:
 - That Since Esther Was Out Of Immediate Danger:
 - And Since Haman Was Now Out Of The Picture:
 - Then Everything Was OK!
 - But Things Were Not OK!
 - And Esther Knew It!
 - And Instead Of Feeling Relief, It Seems As If Her Burden Became Even Greater & Heavier!
 - And So - She Was Compelled To Appear Before The King Once Again!
 - And We Read Of This In:
 - 8:3 - "And Esther spake yet ***again*** before the king!"
 - Now - At Some Point In This Chapter - The King Moved Back To His Throne:
 - So Esther Has To Approach Him A Second Time:
 - In The Throne-Room Of The King!
 - But - We Need To Remember:
 - That There Was A Special Law On The Books:
 - That Prevented Someone - Anyone - From Entering The Presence Of The King Without Being Called For By Name!
 - Remember This Law?
 - 4:11 - Esther To Mordecai - "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!"
 - This Law Applied To Esther - Even As Queen!
 - And This Law Would Have Applied At This Time As Well!
 - 4. So - Once Again - Esther Risks Her Life:
 - To Appear Before Her Husband – The King:

- Without Being Called For & Summoned!
 - But Her Approach This Time Was Different Than The First Time She Approached The King!
 - And We See This In 8:3:
- 5. 8:3 - “And Esther spake yet **again** before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews!”
 - We See From This Verse - That Esther Now Had:
 - A Greater Persistence!
 - The First Time She Went To The King (5:1-2)- She Stood Away From The King In Silence - Waiting To See If He Would Spare Her Life!
 - But This Time - Her Burden Was Greater - And She Rushed Toward The King On His Throne - And “Fell Down At His Feet” And Immediately Started Speaking!
 - We Also See From This Verse - That Esther Now Had:
 - A Greater Passion!
 - The First Time She Went To The King (5:1-2) - She Seemed Reluctant And Cautious With Her Request - Only Asking The King To Join Her For A Banquet Along With Haman!
 - But This Time - Her Burden Was Greater - And She “Besought Him With Tears!”
 - Her Tears Were Not Manufactured! Her Tears Were Not Manipulative! Her Tears Were Full Of Meaning!
 - Esther Was Beside Herself With Grief!
 - Yes - Haman Had Been Killed! Yes - She & Her Father Had Been Granted Lavish Gifts From The King - But Her People - God’s People Were Still In Danger!
 - We Also See From This Verse - That Esther Continued To Have:
 - A Great Purpose!
 - She “Besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews!”
 - Even Though Haman Was Dead - His Desire To Destroy The Jews - Was Still Alive!
 - And So Was His “Device” - The Plan & The Law That Was Already On The Books!
 - And Esther Knew That The Jews Still Had:
 - Many Enemies - All Throughout The Empire!
 - Enemies Who Had The Same Spirit As Haman - Who Would Not Rest Until Every Last Jew Was Killed!
 - And They Couldn’t Wait For The Day In Which They Could Legally Hunt Down & Kill Any & Every Jew They Could Find!
- 6. And So - Queen Esther Once Again:
 - Is In The Presence Of The King:
 - Unloading Her Burden:
 - With An Even Greater Persistence, Passion & Purpose For The Deliverance Of Her People!
 - Now - What Motivated Esther:
 - To Do This?
 - To Once Again - Risk Her Own Life:
 - To Appear Before The King?
 - 3 Things - That Fueled Her Passion & Her Persistence For Her People:

* The First Thing That Motivated Esther Was:

1. A Humble Spirit!

- Now - As Esther Is Kneeling - Probably Even Lying Down:
 - At The Feet Of Her Husband:
 - Crying With Tears Of Grief!
 - Once Again - Her Life Is In The Hands Of The King!
 - The King’s Attendants Probably Wondered - What Would He Do This Time?
 - How Would He Respond To The Approach Of His Queen:
 - Who Came To Him Ignoring **Any** Sense Of Protocol Or Decorum! (Jaws Dropped!)
 - It Was A Risk For Esther To Enter His Presence In The First Place! But It Was An Even Greater Risk For Her To Appear Sad And Stricken With Grief Before Him!
 - After What, I’m Sure, Felt Like An Eternity:
- 8:4 - “Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king!”

- The King Once Again Grants His Approval:
 - To The Queen - And Permits Her To Tell Him - *Again* - Everything That Is On Her Heart!
 - But - Didn't The King Already Know? It Seems Like This King Was Quite Clueless To The Needs & Burdens Of His Own Wife! He Did Not Dwell With Her According To Knowledge! (1 Peter 3:7)
- But With A Great, Humble Spirit:
 - Esther Brings Her Petition & Her Request Once Again To The King's Attention!
- 8:5a - "And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes!"
 - Esther Knew That The King Had All But Ignored:
 - Her Request - To Deliver Her People From The Evil Plan Of Haman To Destroy Them!
 - And She Had Been Given The Right To Request From The King Anything Up To ½ Of The Kingdom!
 - But Instead Of Asserting Her Rights:
 - She Appeals To Him With A Humble Heart!
- Esther Appeals To:
 - His Agreement - When She Says:
 - "If It Please The King!"
- Esther Appeals To:
 - His Acceptance - When She Says:
 - "And If I Have Found Favor In His Sight!"
- Esther Appeals To:
 - His Approval - When She Says:
 - "And The Thing Seem Right Before The King!"
- And Esther Appeals To:
 - His Affection - When She Says:
 - "And I Be Pleasing In His Eyes!"
- With Great Wisdom & Humility:
 - She Makes Her Request To The King Once Again!
- The Great Humility Of Esther:
 - Is But A Reflection Of:
 - The Even Greater Humility Of Our Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - You See - In Order To Rescue The Jews From Destruction:
 - Esther Had To Come To The King:
 - With A Humble Spirit!
 - But In Order To Rescue *All* Of His People:
 - From Death & Destruction:
 - Jesus Had To Come Into This World With An Even Greater Humility:
 - And Become A Servant Who Would Die For The Sins Of His People!
 - We See The Humble Spirit Of Jesus In:
 - 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!"
 - The Humble Spirit Of Jesus:
 - Motivated Him To Sacrifice Himself In Order To Rescue Us From Our Sin & Death!
- And Esther's Humble Spirit:
 - Was A Reflection Of The Spirit Of Christ Himself!

* A Second Thing That Motivated Esther Was:

2. *A Hopeful Spirit!*

- Which We See In The Last Part Of:
 - 8:5 - Which Gives Her Request To The King - "Let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces!"
 - Esther Was Looking For Nothing Less Than:
 - A Complete "Repeal" Of Haman's Decree To Destroy The Jews!

- **IE:** Not A “Repeal & Replace!”
 - Just A Repeal!
- There Was Still A Great Need:
 - For This To Take Place!
 - Because Even Though Haman Was Dead:
 - His “Letters” Were Alive & Well!
- But Esther Believed That Her Husband:
 - The King - Had The Power & The Authority:
 - To “Reverse” Them!
 - She Held Out Hope:
 - That Her Risk & Her Request Would Not Be In Vain!
- But I Believe:
 - That She Had An Even Greater Hope:
 - In The Providential Work Of God!
- Because - She Had Already Seen:
 - God’s Hand Move The Heart Of Her Husband:
 - Several Times!
- And Great Hope Of Esther:
 - Is But A Reflection Of:
 - The Even Greater Hope That We Can Have:
 - In The Ministry Of Jesus Christ!
 - You See - In Order To Go To The King This Second Time:
 - Esther Had To Come:
 - With A Hopeful Spirit!
 - But In Order To Bring Us To Himself:
 - God Offers Us Hope!
 - In Him!
 - We Don’t Need To Hope In Anyone Or Anything Else, When Our Hope Is In The One, True & Living God!
 - Especially When Our Hearts Are Broken!
 - Even As Esther’s Was!
 - Even As David’s Was:
 - When He Penned The Words Of Psalm 2:5 - “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God!”
- And Esther’s Hopeful Spirit:
 - Is A Reminder Of The Hope That We Can:
 - And Ought To Have In The Lord!
 - Does Your Hope In The Lord Motivate You To “Cast All Your Care Upon” The Lord, Knowing That “He Careth For You!” (1 Peter 5:7)

* But A Third Thing That Motivated Esther Was:

3. ***A Tender-Hearted Spirit!***

- Which We See So Clearly In:
 - 8:6 - “For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?”
 - With These Words - Esther Explains To The King:
 - What Ultimately Motivated Her To Risk Her Life For A 2nd Time To Enter Into His Presence!
 - And What Gave her The Courage & The Boldness To Do So!
- Esther Truly ***Felt*** For The Plight Of Her People!
 - Her Life May Have Been Spared From Immediate Danger:
 - But Not Her People!
 - And She Would Do Anything To Help Them!
- Two Times She Asks Rhetorically:
 - “How Can I Endure?”
 - How Could She Bear It!
 - How Could She Bear To See The Destruction Of Her People & Her Kindred!
- If Haman’s Plans Came To Pass:

- It Would Overwhelm Her With Grief!
 - Oh, What A Tender Heart We See:
 - In Queen Esther For Her People!
 - For God's People!
- As Jacobs Life & Heart:
 - Was Bound Up In The Life Of His Son, Benjamin:
 - So Was Esther's Life & Heart:
 - Bound Up In The Lives Of God's People!
- And Esther's Tender-Hearted Spirit:
 - Is Once Again - A Reflection Of:
 - The Even Greater Heart That:
 - Jesus Christ Has For His People!
 - Hebrews 4:15 - "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities!"
 - The Life & Heart Of Jesus:
 - Is Bound Up In The Lives Of His People!
 - "O What A Tender, Compassionate Friend!"
 - This Is Who Jesus Is:
 - To All Who Believe In Him & Receive Him As Their Savior!
- And Esther's Tender Heart:
 - For Her People Is But A Faint Reflection:
 - Of The Compassionate Heart That Jesus Has:
 - Toward You - If You Are His Child!

Conclusion:

1. Humility / Hope / And A Tender Heart:
 - All Motivated Esther:
 - To Make Her Final Appeal To The King:
 - For The Welfare Of Her People!
 - And These Three Things:
 - We Can See Even More Brightly:
 - Shining In The Life & Heart Of Jesus!
2. Have You Seen For Yourself:
 - The Humility Of Jesus:
 - When He Came To Serve You:
 - And When He Came To Die For You?
 - Have You Seen For Yourself:
 - The Hope That You Can Have In Jesus:
 - John 14:19 - "Because I live, ye shall live also!"
 - Have You Seen For Yourself:
 - The Heart Of Jesus:
 - Who Loves You & Gave Himself For You! (Galatians 2:20)
 - If So - How Will You Respond?
 - Will You Believe In Him?
 - Will You Receive Him?
3. And If You Do Belong To Christ:
 - What Kind Of Spirit Do **You** Have?
 - Does It Reflect The Spirit Of Your Savior?
 - Do You Have A Humble Spirit?
 - Philippians 2:3-5 - "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. / Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. / Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus!"
 - Do You Have A Hopeful Spirit?
 - In The Lord & His Work?
 - In Your Own Life & For The Lives Of Others?
 - Lamentations 3:21-23 - "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. / It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. / They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness!"

- Do You Have A Tender-Heart?
- Like The Lord?
- A Compassion Like His?
- For His People!
- For Others Who Need Him?
- And For The Needs Of Others?

4. May The Heart Of Esther:
- Which Reflects The Heart Of Christ:
 - Become Our Own Heart!
 - As We Seek To Serve The Lord:
 - In Greater Humility!
 - And With Greater Hope!

* *"A Servants Heart"*

***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***