

Theme: Through a seemingly insignificant event the Lord begins to reverse the fortunes of individual lives and of his covenant people in Persia. His hand is not just in the great acts and mighty works – but in every act and work no matter how small we may think it is.

Background:

Reversal of fortunes – *important element of Esther*

Up to this point? Negative turn of events for people of God.

Now things begin to *turn*.

Introduction: We are used to dramatic reversals. Saved at the last second?!

Life doesn't always work that way. Things often turn on insignificant actions.

I. A Restless Night

A. The king can't sleep

- Reads “The Chronicles”

- Major oversight

- Needs counsel

B. Haman can't sleep

1. Agitated

2. Called by the king

- The perfect question for Haman

3. “Fill in the blank” - *ME!?* v.6

- Describes his heart's desire. (Proverbs 16:18)

4. Honor like this! v.8,9

II. A Wretched Day! v.10

A. Honor his hated enemy!! The tables are turned.

1. His worst nightmare come true! Mortified!

2. Reversal of fortunes.

B. The prophets of doom - v.13

- Seeing a divine power at work?

- “This Prophecy” is consistent with the Word of God.
(Numbers 24:20; Jeremiah 15:11)

III. The Master's Plan

A. There for all to see

1. Zeresh saw it. And the advisors, it seems. (Genesis 12:3)
2. We must see look closely.

B. In the seemingly insignificant details

1. A sleepless night? The reversal of fortunes begins.
2. God's sovereignty and providence renders our acts and deeds truly significant.

WSC XI. Ques. *What are God's works of providence?* Answer: God's works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

C. The *One* God honors. If *Providence* is the heart of the book of Esther, surely *Honor Where Honor is Due* is at the center of this chapter.

- Haman wanted to be honored *like* the king! (To be in the king's place)
- Must give honor to another – unwillingly.
 - Powerful picture of judgment.
- Mordecai – receives honor he doesn't deserve! Reversal of fortune!
 - Rides king's horse
 - Wears king's royal robes
 - A herald in front of him

NOTE: How is that possible that we are clothed in royal robes and are remembered by the King – given an imperishable crown of life?

POSSIBLE BECAUSE: Jesus Christ gave up his place of honor – at the right hand of the Father.

- He took our place of shame and punishment.
- Mordecai would be proclaimed “the man whom the king delights to honor”
- Christ would be mocked by all who saw him, crying out “Crucify Him”
- Haman would not turn to “kiss the Son” (Ps.2)
- Will you??