

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition of Ruth and Esther #11

Strike While the Iron is Hot or Wait and Something Worse May
Happen?
Esther 5:1-14

I. The Worm Turns and Turns Again

A. Taking the risk VS 1-2

- After the fast
- She appears
- The King receives her
- She enters

B. The fastest way to a man's heart... VS 3-8

- The opportunity given
- The opportunity missed
- The opportunity postponed

C. Haman the hangman VS 9-14

- I feel good
- He stole my joy
- But I am great
 1. He tells his family and friends
 2. Even the Queen thinks so
- Focus on the one negative
- Eliminate the problem immediately his wife says

II. Issues In The Story

A. Never let your guard down – Satan is at work

B. Failure to follow through

C. Joy is the result of focus - Haman

- Positive or
- Negative

D. The twists of life

- Murphy's law or
- Is God at work and we don't see it?

III. Thoughts

A. Esther's character emerges as she identifies with the people of God

- She takes the initiative
- Takes risks

B. Haman's character defects drive him even in the midst of great success and honor – they destroy him

- Us too

C. The transformed life through identification with Christ and the risks that go with it

- I Peter 4:12-19

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good."

- Be faithful and trust that God is at work