

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition of

Ruth and Esther #13

Gallows Humor or Hanging Out With Haman

Esther 7

Setting the scene

I. The Death of Despair

- A.** One more time: for the record VS 1-2
 - Esther's second dinner
 - After dinner
 - Drinking wine, it's all so fine
 - Now, again what can I do for you?

- B.** Let my people go! VS 3-4
 - Very respectful
 - My people and me
 - Have been bought to be annihilated
 - Slavery would not be a crisis
 - Murder is
 - By an enemy who has no concern for how this will damage the King
 - Only you can save me!

- C.** The King is outraged VS 5-6
 - At the threat
 - Who is the enemy?
 - Haman

- D.** Haman – a chicken with it's head cut off VS 7-8
 - The King leaves to think
 1. My most trusted advisor, #2 in the Empire, who I have honored again and again
 2. Or my wife – I can always get another one, I did before
 - Haman begs Esther for his life, throws himself on her
 - The King sees this and thinks he is assaulting his queen
 - The decision is made

- E.** The end justifies the means VS 9-10
 - Capital offenses
 1. Manipulation of the King
 2. Assaulting the Queen

- Cover his face for execution
- Hang him on his own gallows
- Now the King feels better

II. Issues In The Story

- A.** Irony –
 - The very plan that Haman developed to annihilate the Jews comes back on him and annihilates him
 - Psalms 2:1-6
 - Mordecai over whom Haman had power ends up with all of Haman's power and possessions

- B.** Haman evil and divine justice
 - One gives life – the promises of God
 - One dies – the evil one
 - When a person decides, for whatever reason, to move against God, His Will and His people he is choosing the way of destruction
 - Evil deceives people with the idea that they can win – by power, wealth, influence, etc.

- C.** Identification with a people decides who gets life and who gets death
 - Haman the Agagite
 - Mordecai the Jew
 - Us too – I Peter 2:9-10, John 14:19, I Corinthians 15:22

III. Thoughts

- A.** The everyday events and encounters of life good or bad is where God uses our words and actions to accomplish His will in His world.
 - So be ready to be used and,
 - Be aware of His presence

- B.** Being at odds with those who are your authority is never good – Honor those in authority

- C.** The Lord's Supper
 - As we receive these elements with gratitude and humility
 - We honor God