


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Esther Prepares a Banquet for the King

¹ On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance.

Q1. What emotion(s) might Queen Esther be experiencing as she waits for the king to either accept or reject her?

Q2. Queen Esther demonstrated faith-in-action. In Who does Queen Esther place her trust?

Q3. In Who do you trust? Would you be willing to risk death for the One you trust?

Who?

Trust?

² When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So, Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.


Q4. What was the significance of the king "held out to her the gold scepter"?

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

Esther 4:11 [NIV-1984]

"All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

Day 2


 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

³ Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

Q5. Was Queen Esther's apprehension (i.e., worry) justified . . . as it turned out?

Q6. Do you think the king was happy to see Esther?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

 ***Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you:*** "A usual form of speech among kings, when their hearts are enlarged and overflow with affection to others, or when they give persons the freest liberty to ask what they please. The meaning is, 'Nothing in reason shall be denied thee.' " [©about 1800, *Commentary of the Old and New Testaments* by Joseph Benson. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/esther/5-3.htm>]

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14


⁴ "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."

Q7. It appears that during her time of fasting, Queen Esther has been praying to the Lord . . . and putting a plan into action. How would you describe the plan? The "banquet"?

Plan?

Banquet?

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁵ "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks."

So, the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. ⁶ As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

Q8. [Personal reflection] How often do we, too, act like this king and believe in our hearts that "I am responsible for all that I have"? ("Thanks be to . . . me!")


Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

Q9. In what ways has God provided you with riches? (e.g., talents, opportunities, people at the right time, ideas, Himself, etc.)

⁷ Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: ⁸ If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."


Q10. Do you think the king leaves the banquet knowing that his Queen has a weighty request to make of him?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

 While we do not know the precise reason why Queen Esther 'got cold feet' and delayed making her request, we know that God used the additional time for certain additional events to unfold. Perhaps, God wanted to give Haman one final opportunity to repent of his intended evil action or to cement judgment.

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Haman's Anger Against Mordecai


⁹ Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai.

Q11. Again, why was Haman angry with Mordecai?

Q12. What was the depth of Haman's anger against Mordecai? Annoyed? Angry? Fury? Or?

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Q13. What does our Lord advise about anger?

Matthew 5:22-24 [NIV-1984]

²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca [An Aramaic term of contempt],' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

²³ "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 18:32-35 [NIV-1984]


³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Psalms 4:4 [New King James Version (NKJV)]

Be angry [see note (↴)], and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

 Psalm 4:4: "Angry" has also been translated *tremble* (NIV) or *be agitated* (ESV: footnote) or *disturbed* (NRSV).

Ephesians 4:22-27 [NIV-1984]

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold.


Ephesians 4:31-32 [NIV-1984]

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

Ephesians 6:4 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

 Righteous anger? How do we, who believe, interact with those we love, our work mates, our friends, our neighbors, our BFFs? We must remember that for some people “We are the only Bible that they will ever read.” [Author: unknown. Retold: Jim Steffen]

Q14. Our Lord displayed a righteous anger when He entered the Temple and confronted the money-changers and sellers of sacrificial animals. Why was His anger justified?

Matthew 21:12-17 [The Message (MSG)]

12-14 Jesus went straight to the Temple and threw out everyone who had set up shop, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of loan sharks and the stalls of dove merchants. He quoted this text:

‘My house was designated a house of prayer [Isaiah 56:7]; You have made it a hangout for thieves.’

[Jeremiah 7:11, some versions use ‘den of robbers’; the MSG version is quite comprehensive in its paraphrase translation]

Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them.

15-16 When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing, and heard all the children running and shouting through the Temple, “Hosanna to David’s Son!” they were up in arms and took him to task. “Do you hear what these children are saying?”

Jesus said, “Yes, I hear them. And haven’t you read in God’s Word, ‘From the mouths of children and babies I’ll furnish a place of praise’ [Psalm 8:2]?”

17 Fed up, Jesus spun around and left the city for Bethany, where he spent the night.

Q15. Is our anger ever justified?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q16. How should we (who believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus) direct our anger, confront those who wrong us, and manage our emotions with those closest to us?

Direct?


Confront?

Manage?

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

Q17. [Personal question] If you could share with other Believers, what coping mechanisms do you use when confronted with some event that particularly frustrates or angers you?

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁰ Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, ¹¹ Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials.

¹² "And that's not all," Haman added. "I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow.

Q18. Verse 10: Should we applaud Haman for his restraint?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Q19. What word or phrase best describes Haman's character?

Lesson 5: Esther 5:1-14

¹³ But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate."

¹⁴ His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet high, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then, go with the king to the dinner and be happy."

This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the gallows built.

Q20. Haman had surrounded himself with enablers – those who thought the same, those who were also morally bankrupt. Should we surround ourselves with individuals who are like-minded, who willingly agree with our decisions? Or should we solicit differing opinions?

Q21. Do you seek God's opinion? God's will (as in "Thy will be done")?

Matthew 6:5-15 [Revised Standard Version (RSV)]

⁵ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread;

¹² And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors;

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil [Or the evil one. Other authorities, some ancient, add, in some form, 'For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen'].

¹⁴ For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Copyrights:

Questions: © For All Eternity on behalf of Christ Jesus.

Scripture: The Holy Bible, New International Version (NIV © [NIV-1984]), © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Zondervan Publishing House.

Scripture: The Message (MSG): © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson, The Message (MSG)

Scripture: J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS). © 1960, 1972 by J. B. Phillips, *The New Testament in Modern English* by J.B Phillips.