

WOMEN'S STUDY IN ESTHER

Lesson 6 Chapter 5

As you read through Esther and begin this study, ask God to open your heart. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law".
Psalm 119:18

Assignment: In the next week read through Esther, especially chapter 5. Attempt to answer the following discussion questions. Don't worry if you cannot find all the answers. We will discuss them next week.

Questions:

- 1) What has happened in previous chapters to cause Esther to do what she does in chapter 5? Explain

- 2) What does Esther do in verse 5:1 and when did she do it?

- 3) From the last chapter, what were the consequences Esther was aware of if things didn't go well with the king? What is the significance of the phrase "on the third day" 5:1, in light of 4:15-17?

- 4) Do you call upon believers to pray and seek the Lord's favor for you when you encounter difficult situations?

- 5) What was the king's response when Esther stood before him (5:2)? Do all the bad things we think might happen always happen?

- 6) Obviously by Esther's honoring him and her boldness to come before him, the king realized she was troubled and has a request. What then does the king ask her first and how does he address her (5:3)? What does he ask second and how does he qualify his question (5:3)?

- 7) What was Esther's first request in 5:4? Why do you think she did this instead of just making her ultimate request?

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- 8) Obviously, Esther had prayerfully (three days) thought through her words and actions, having "prepared" the banquet in advance.

- 9) When you desire to address issues (of His will) with your husband do you prayerfully and wisely prepare your words and the situation? In contrast, what harmful ways did Esther avoid that wives sometimes use to get their way with their husbands?

- 10) How did the king respond to Esther's request (5) and what did he say at the banquet she had prepared (6)?

- 11) What request did Esther first make in response (7-8)? Would you have been as wise and patient as Esther was in getting to the point (her main request)? Why, why not?

- 12) How did Haman respond after he left the banquet (9a) and why? What made him angry as he went home (9b)? What did he do (10)?

- 13) Why do you think Esther invited Haman to the banquets?

- 14) What did Haman do and say when he got home (11-12)? Did this bring satisfaction and ease his anger (13) What do these things say about Haman's character?

- 15) What still upset Haman and what did his wife and friends advise him to do? How did Haman respond to their suggestion (14)? What does this say about Haman's character?

- 16) Describe several characteristics of Haman that we should avoid and those of Esther we should imitate as we trust Jesus.