

Loyal Heart MINISTRIES

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If it Pleases the King...An Eight Week Study of Esther

A Study for Women by *Stephanie Little*

Key Verse: *“That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.”*

There is an interlude between chapters 5 and 7 of Esther, between the first banquet and the second. In this interlude, we are able to catch a glimpse of God’s hand at work. He is turning the heart of the mighty king Ahasuerus. As you read this chapter, look for Him there. Think about His ways, His purpose, His desire for His people and His glory. As you complete your study this week, I hope you’ll look for Him in your own life. I pray you’ll begin to see Him working like you’ve never known before.

- 1) Please read chapter 6 straight through to get the context down. Then, jump back up to verse one (our key verse). The first two words are “That night...” Look back at the previous chapter to discover exactly when the king’s sleepless night occurs. Why does he ask for the book of the chronicles (records) to be read?
- 2) Read verses 2-3. Where does the king stop the reading? Could it be coincidence that he is hearing about Mordecai on this night? Think about how much had been written since the day Mordecai revealed the assassination plot. After all, it had been five years! What had happened to Mordecai since that day? Take a look at verse 4 in light of verse 3. The king wanted to honor Mordecai. Haman wanted to hang him. The king desired dignity for Mordecai. Haman desired his death. How ironic is it that Haman walks in just at this time? Before Haman has time to speak, the king asks a very intriguing question. What does he ask and what thoughts motivate Haman’s answer? Describe all the glory Haman wanted for himself.
- 3) Satan uses the sin of pride as his most valuable tool. His temptations generally fall into one of three categories: the lust of the flesh (the prideful desire to have something that we think will fulfill us), the lust of the eyes (the prideful desire to believe we deserve something good we see), and the pride of life (elevation of self above others). Take a look back at man’s original sin in the Garden. Genesis 3:1-6 records this very pattern of temptation as Satan lays it out before Eve. Describe how he uses this method in each statement he makes to Eve:
The lust of the flesh:

The lust of the eyes:

The pride of life:

Ask God to show you if you are being tempted in any of these areas. If so, confess it and ask for His forgiveness and His victory in this area.

- 4) What happens to Mordecai and Haman in verse 11? Can you imagine how Haman must have felt? What about Mordecai? One moment he's wearing sackcloth and ashes and the next he's clothed in royal attire! What do Proverbs 15:29, 33; 16:18-19; 1 Peter 5:6 and James 4:10 have to say about humility?
- 5) Read verses 12-14. Where does Mordecai go after he is exalted? Where does Haman go? Look at the interesting statement Zeresh and Haman's wise men make. They change their tune from the earlier encouragement to kill Mordecai. How do their words match the prophecy of Exodus 17:14?

While they are still talking, Haman is led away to the second banquet. God is working. Evil will soon be crushed. Look back through the chapter and record the details that could only be God at work. Think about your life this week and write down the details that could only be God at work. Have you thanked Him for all He is doing in your life? Have you, like the Psalmist, proclaimed His wondrous works, giving Him all honor and glory? Make the glorification of God a priority in your life today.