



Behind The Scenes

God at work in the story of Esther



Hometown Community Church



Setting

Characters

Conflict

Theme

Climax

Resolution

Recap

- God is never mentioned
- God's silence is not God's

absence

Recap

- Mordecai
 - Jewish resident of Susa
 - Esther's cousin
 - Saul's family line

Recap

- Haman
 - 2nd in command
 - Loves power, control and wealth
 - Family line of Agag



God is in the midst
of our conflicts

After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles.

Esther 3:1 NIV

All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

Esther 3:2 NIV

Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?"

Esther 3:3 NIV

Day after day they spoke to him
but he refused to comply.
Therefore they told Haman about
it to see whether Mordecai's
behavior would be tolerated, for he
had told them he was a Jew.

Esther 3:4 NIV

When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged.

Esther 3:5 NIV

Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

Esther 3:6 NIV

What is the conflict?

- Mordecai refuses to kneel
- Haman is enraged
- Haman feels disrespected

Then Haman said to King Xerxes,
“There is a certain people
dispersed among the peoples in all
the provinces of your kingdom
who keep themselves separate.

Esther 3:8a NIV

Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

Esther 3:8b NIV

If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents[b] of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury.”

Esther 3:9 NIV

So the king took his signet ring
from his finger and gave it to
Haman son of Hammedatha, the
Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

Esther 3:10 NIV

“Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”

Esther 3:11 NIV

Haman's Response

- Goes on the attack
- Makes it about the King
- Receives the signet ring

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

Esther 4:1 NIV

But he went only as far as the king's
gate, because no one clothed in
sackcloth was allowed to enter it

Esther 4:2 NIV

In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Esther 4:3 NIV

Mordecai's Response

- Public mourning

When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

Esther 4:4 NIV

Then Esther summoned Hathak,
one of the king's eunuchs assigned
to attend her, and ordered him to
find out what was troubling
Mordecai and why.

Esther 4:5 NIV

So Hathak went out to Mordecai in
the open square of the city in front
of the king's gate.

Esther 4:6 NIV

Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.

Esther 4:7 NIV

He also gave him a copy of the text
of the edict for their annihilation,
which had been published in Susa,
to show to Esther and explain it to
her,

Esther 4:8a NIV

And he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

Esther 4:8b NIV

Mordecai's Response

- Public mourning
- Defense - Asks for Esther's help

Where is God?

- God is in the midst of our conflicts
- Conviction
- Mourning
- Peace

Conviction

- Very strong feeling
- Convictions can lead to conflict

Little Rascals



Mourning

- Conflict can be upsetting
- God is with us in the mourning



Peace

- Conflict can put us on edge



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

-John: 14:27

Application

- Think about conflicts past and present
- Did you look to God in those conflicts?
- Remember that God is with us in the midst of our conflicts