

# Behind The Scenes

God at work in the story of Esther



Hometown Community Church



# Recap

- Haman and Mordecai have their conflict
- Haman issues the decree to kill all the Jews
- Esther goes to Xerxes for help

# *Main Point*

God lifts the humble, and humbles  
the proud

That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.

Esther 6:1 NIV

It was found recorded there that  
Mordecai had exposed  
Bigthana and Teresh, two of the  
king's officers who guarded the  
doorway, who had conspired to  
assassinate King Xerxes.

Esther 6:2 NIV

“What honor and recognition  
has Mordecai received for this?”  
the king asked.

“Nothing has been done for  
him,” his attendants answered.

Esther 6:3 NIV

The king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him.

Esther 6:4 NIV

His attendants answered,  
“Haman is standing in the  
court.”

“Bring him in,” the king ordered.

Esther 6:5 NIV



When Haman entered, the king asked him, “What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?”. Now Haman thought to himself, “Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?”

Esther 6:6 NIV

So he answered the king, “For  
the man the king delights to  
honor,

Esther 6:7 NIV

Have them bring a royal robe  
the king has worn and a horse  
the king has ridden, one with a  
royal crest placed on its head.

Esther 6:8 NIV

Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'"

Esther 6:9 NIV

“Go at once,” the king  
commanded Haman. “Get the  
robe and the horse and do just  
as you have suggested for  
Mordecai the Jew, who sits at  
the king’s gate. Do not neglect  
anything you have  
recommended.”

Esther 6:10 NIV

So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robed Mordecai, and led him on horseback through the city streets, proclaiming before him, “This is what is done for the man the king

delights to honor!” Esther 6:11 NIV

# What Happened

- Mordecai foiled a plot to kill Xerxes
- King reads what Mordecai did
- King asks Haman what should be done for this man
- Haman parades Mordecai through the city

# *Hamman is Humbled*

- Thinks he's being honored
- Has to give out the honor
- He despises the man he has to honor



# *Mordecai is Lifted*

- Multiple acts of selflessness
- Now he is being recognized
- Never asked for it, wanted it, or expected it

So the king and Haman went to  
Queen Esther's banquet,

Esther 7:1

and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, “Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.”

Esther 7:2

Then Queen Esther answered,  
“If I have found favor with you,  
Your Majesty, and if it pleases  
you, grant me my life—this is  
my petition. And spare my  
people—this is my request.

Esther 7:3

For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.

Esther 7:4

King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?”

Esther 7:5

Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden.”

Esther 7:6-7a

# What Happened

- Banquet thrown by Esther
- Esther asks for the King to spare her and her people
- Esther names Haman
- Xerxes storms out



# *Xerxes is Humbled*

- This can easily be overlooked
- He storms out because he knows he's complicit
- He realizes Haman took advantage of him

But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life

Esther 7:7b

Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, “Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?” As soon as the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face

Esther 7:8

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits[b] stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.” The king said, “Impale him on it!”

Esther 7:9

*So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.*

Esther 7:10

# What Happened

- Haman begs for his life
- King comes back livid
- Haman is executed

# *Esther is Lifted*

- Comes from a humble background
- Lifted, first, to a place of status
- Has the conviction and confidence to live out her calling to save others

# Application

- Pride is when we try to elevate ourselves, and humility is when we allow God to elevate us
- How do you wrestle with pride?
- Where do you need to humble yourself?