

## Esther 7

When have you had to approach someone who had more power or authority than you? How did you feel or act?

Esther 7:1-6 (NIV)

**1** So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, **2** 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."

**3** 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. **4** 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."

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

**6** Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!"

Discuss the formalities and precautions Esther took in approaching King Xerxes.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV):

**14** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

How does the manner in which we can approach God differ from Esther's petition to the king?

What things might be keeping you from approaching God with confidence?

- What truth from the Word can you apply to overcome these things?
- What changes in your life when you believe or don't believe these truths?

Esther 7:7-10 (NIV)

**7** The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

**8** 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. **9** Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits 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!" **10** So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

How was poetic justice delivered in the case of Haman?

Knowing that the Jews are saved through Esther revealing Haman's plot, did they also receive poetic justice in this story, in that virtue is rewarded?

In reading this story, we realize that we, as sinners, deserve Haman's fate. Instead, we have received the grace extended to Esther and the Jewish people. Do you feel that you balance both the truths of what you deserve and what you've received?

- Do you need to focus more on one of these truths?

What is our community application of this passage?