

Esther 8-9 Life in Christ

Have you ever wondered why when people get in an elevator – everyone stops talking and looks forward

A) Tempted at times when last one – to stand facing everyone – Starring –

B) Elevator protocol – Stop talking – hands to your sides – Look forward – WHY?

C) PERHAPS THIS IS where that originated: A law on the books in the state of New York, it is illegal in NY to speak to a person while riding in an elevator and you must fold your hands while looking forward.

D) Perhaps that is where it started.

Lots of obscure – bazaar laws on the books in this country.

A) In Texas it is against the law to sell your eyeballs.

B) In the state of Washington - You can be fined and arrested for harassing bigfoot

1) Apparently They think Big foot exist

D) In Alabama Bear Wrestling is Prohibited

1) Pet Bears

E) One more: In Ohio Policemen are allowed to bite a dog if they think it will calm the dog down

Laws are necessary in any well-ordered society.

A) It is one of the great stabilizing influences among peoples and nations.

B) But if laws are not grounded in good principles,

1) they become either ludicrous or counterproductive.

C) In Persia - once a law was written and confirmed by the King - it could not be reversed

You recall from our previous studies - the King wrote into Law - the request of Haman

A) That in 11 months all 3 million Jews in the Kingdom - would be eradicated - Killed

B) Even though we saw last week, how the hatred of Haman was exposed and he was executed

C) This new law couldn't be reversed, ignored or changed.

1) The only thing that could happen is this law could be superseded by a NEW LAW

D) That is what we see that takes place here in ch.8-9 of the book of Esther

1) The King is going to allow Esther his queen and Mordecai his new prime Minister

E) To write a new law that is going to counteract the old law.

As we work our way through these two chapters today.

A) We are going to be reminded of some Key principles in the Christian life

3 Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews. 4 And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, 5 and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?"

So Esther is asking - can something be done to counteract the edict of Haman.

7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews.

8 You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

So the King gives them permission to write something...

9 So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

11 By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions, 12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

13 A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

So here is what happened: The King can't change the edict but he can approve of a new edict that counteract the old one.

A)So the new edict that Mordecai wrote declared that on the day that the Jews in Persia were supposed to be annihilated

B)They now had the right to bear arms and defend themselves.

C)So this new law was written into the Persia books that would supersede the old law

1)giving the Jewish pp the right to defend themselves.

D)This idea of one law being written - that supersedes a previous law

1)Is a picture of what happens to us in Christ

1st Principle: The law of the spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2

A)The law of sin and death said: Keep these commandments - declared righteous - right w/ God!

B)But if you fail to keep the commandments of God = sinner -

1)The wages of sin is death and the soul that sins will surely die Romans 6:23

C)You know the story Adam fell –broke God's law

1)sin entered into the world - all of us were Born into this curse

D)Our natural tendency is to break God's law - we are not sinners because we sin

1)We sin because we are sinners - our sin our tendency to break the law of God in inbred in us

That was the law, the edict – we were all born under the curse.

A)We were born with a death sentence on our heads

B)In the same way that when Haman's edict went into play any Jewish child born in that year span

1)was born with a death sentence on their heads

C)We were born with a death sentence.

Our Sin condemned us. That was the law of sin and death and that law could not be altered

A)God is a Just God – He can't just excuse sin

B)But God did do something -

Romans 3:26 – He would show himself to be Just and the Justifier of our sins.

How can he be Just (punish sin) and the Justifier?

A)The one who pays the price for our sins? The one who declares that sinners are forgiven and Righteous

B)A 2nd edict was needed – not one that just altered the first one – but one that supersedes it

C)This is what God did - He sent his beloved son Jesus to pay the Price for our sins

D)To make a way for men and women to be declared righteous apart from keeping the law.

E)Jesus would come to earth to give his life a ransom to rescue sinners

1)He would go to the cross and take the punishment that we deserved

His death on the cross would satisfy the requirement of sin and death.

A) And then any human being who would put their trust in Jesus - his death and Resurrection

B) Could be declared righteous in God's eyes!

C) Paul put it this way in Romans 3:21-24

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:21-24

Prior to Calvary the only way for a man or woman to be declared righteous in God's eyes - keep the law

A) Problem was - NO ONE COULD - all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God

B) Now this is a Righteousness of God that is apart from the law - thru faith in the finished work of JC

Romans 5:1 **we are declared righteous by faith in the finished work of Jesus**

We are under a new law - the law of Grace -

A) God did for us what we could not do for ourselves

B) So in the same way - that the new law that Mordecai wrote into being -

1) Superseded the law that Haman put forth

The law of the spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2

Back to our story V.14

14 The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

The couriers went out on horseback with this news hastened and pressed

A) They went out in haste and with an urgency to get this news out.

B) If you recall - back in the end of Chapter 3 - when Haman's edict was put forth

1) It says the residents in Persia were perplexed -

C) They liked their Jewish neighbors - they didn't want to see this happen.

D) The number of people in the kingdom who were anti-Semitic was a small number

So these couriers went out with haste and a sense of urgency - to get the news out

A) Good news there is hope for our Jewish friends

B) Precious church - we have even better news for our friends and family.

C) We know how people that we love can be saved and NOT BE damned for all eternity -

1) It is in the Love of God and in the finished work of Jesus

D) I think we should have a similar urgency and haste to sharing the good news of the gospel

1) There is hope in JESUS

Now watch the affect that this New declaration had on the Jewish people living in Persia

15 So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. 16 The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor. 17 And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

A) The Presence of Mordecai being in Power changed everything for the Jews

B) Their sorrow and mourning was turned to gladness and Joy

C) They had an advocate in power - A voice to the king - standing in the gap.

D) We have an even better advocate in Jesus

1) Who ever lives to make intercession for us

E) We have great news that needs to be shared!

AS we come to Chapter 9 – THAT DAY OF DOOM HAS ARRIVED!

Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.

A) This was the anticipated and dreaded day when the edicts commanded by the king was to be carried out.

B) Those harboring anti-Semitic sentiments though a small group - they were eager and ready for that day

1) Hoping to overpower the Jewish people

C) But the opposite happened - they were overpowered by the Jewish people

D) The tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand."

2 The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people. 3 And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, **helped the Jews**, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. 4 **For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent.** 5 Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.

6 And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. 7 Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, 8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, 9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha—**10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews—they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder**

Look back at V.4 – See something very important application to our lives.

A) Not only did they have freedom to fight, but they have power to fight: **"For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became**

increasingly prominent- (grew more and more powerful.")

B) They were fighting now in the consciousness that the man of power was on their side,

C) That right up to the very throne itself they had not only the authority to fight,
1) but they fought in dependence on his power.

Mordecai in Esther story is a type of the Holy Spirit

A) Mordecai – protects and raises Esther – teaching her in the ways of Israel- HS teaches us

B) Mordecai – urges Esther – you need to do something – HS – convicts us -

C) Here – Empowering his Pp

2nd Principle: We are not just given freedom - we are given power.

A) I saw a picture this week of a piece of wood that was driven into a metal pole - tornado - OK

B) Now If I handed you a piece of wood and a hammer and said -

1) ok - drive this into that metal pole

C) You would say it is impossible.

But it happened - there stood - wood in the Metal pole - How did it happen?

A) The power of that mighty wind was able to do the Impossible.

B) The Power of the Holy Spirit in our lives allows us to do - the impossible -

C) He empowers us to live for Jesus

1) Stand in the face of opposition

D) To be the Husbands, wives, and parents

1) Followers of Jesus we are called to be

Our need is to learn how to walk in the spirit

A) To be led by the Spirit of God

B) To be dependent upon the Spirit of God in our lives

C) Jesus put it this way: John 15 - **Apart from me you can do nothing**

D) **The Presence of the Holy Spirit imparts to us - new life and power**

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. – Romans 8:5,6

Romans 8:37 - ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

That is what we see here. The Jews in Persia fought in the realization that the man behind the throne is the one **from whom power comes.**

A) They fought with a sense of power - because they knew the throne was on their side

B) We are called as believers to do the same - to realize the power of the Risen Jesus is on our side

C) Ephesians 6:10 **Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might**

D) So they were not just given freedom - but they were also given power

1) Same is true for us

V.10 They didn't take the plunder

A) They defended themselves, but went no further.

B) They protected themselves and didn't carry it to the extreme. –

C) **How did that happen?** – Throughout the whole region? – **Answer - Act of God.**

1) Unity of action amongst the Jews

D) A fruit of the Spirit is Self-Control!

V.11 ¹¹ On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king. ¹² And the king said to Queen Esther, “The Jews have killed and destroyed **five hundred** men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what *is* your petition? It shall be granted to you. Or what *is* your further request? It shall be done.”

¹³ Then Esther said, “If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who *are* in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows.”

¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons. ¹⁵ And the Jews who *were* in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹⁶ The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder. ¹⁷ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of *the month* they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

Haman and his sons were descendants of the ancient Amalekites – Type of the Flesh

A) God commanded Saul, the son of Kish, to execute the full extent of God's judgment against the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:2-3).

B) Saul failed; but this later descendent of the tribe of Benjamin and a son of Kish named Mordecai completed God's judgment against the Amalekites.

C) Mordecai who represents the Spirit was in control and Haman and his sons - represent the flesh... death

3rd Principle: When the Spirit is in control, the flesh is defeated!

¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Romans 8:11

The Spirit of Jesus in us - power over the flesh

For years I tried to have victory over my fleshly tendency - in my own strength

A) Found the harder I tried - the more I failed

B) Today I am going to have Victory - today it is going to be different - not giving into the flesh

C) The harder I tried the more I failed -

Or in those rare times where I had victory it was always short lived

A)Or if I had victory over one thing - there was always something to take its place

B)But then I finally realized - that true Victory is not in trying harder - it was in surrender

C)Life Verses **Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in Spirit ... Kingdom of God**

D)To be poor in spirit is to realize you are spiritually Destitute - What the word poor means - Destitute

IN NT Times it described a beggar – Someone who was so bad off they couldn't take care of themselves

A)They were so destitute that they did not possess the resources to food and clothe themselves

B)They were dependent on the Charity of others in order to Survive.

Jesus is not talking about a physical poverty but a spiritual poverty

A)Poor in spirit means you have full recognition in the inner man of **your complete inability** to meet and address your own spiritual needs!

B)It is a sense of spiritual bankruptcy and helplessness before God.

1)Nothing I can do to change my spiritual condition as a sinner.

C)"Poor in spirit" *is the realization that you have no assets to commend yourself before God.*

1)You **have no capital** with which to bargain at the throne of judgment. It is a sense of moral uncleanness before God.

Poor in spirit is the place where we realize – I am a sinner

A)Nothing I can do to change that – Standing with God

B)Try as I might to clean up my act – turn my life around

C)If you send a **sinner to school**, you'll have an **educated sinner**.

If you send a **sinner to psychiatrist**, you'll have a **well-adjusted sinner**.

A)Send a **sinner to rehab** – free from his addiction – **A SOBER SINNER!**

B)Give a sinner money and you'll have a wealthy sinner.

C)Give a **sinner religion**, have him sign a pledge card and join a church and you'll have a **religious sinner**.

D)But Send a sinner repentant of his sin to the cross, and you'll have a forgiven sinner.

FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN God fills up your SPIRITUAL BANK ACCOUNT

1)DEPOSIT **FORGIVENESS** – My standing changes

2)DEPOSITS – **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

3)DEPOSITS – **HOPE FOR the Future** – in death

4)HE DEPOSITS **GRACE & POWER** FOR LIVING

Which is why being Poor in Spirit IS NOT just the KEY for salvation but also for THE KEY CHRISTIAN LIVING.

A)It needs to be a constant state of the heart

B)Put simply: Realize your utter dependency upon God for everything

1)**Poverty of spirit empties a man and so makes him ready to be filled!**

C)For theirs **is the Kingdom of heaven** – Definitely salvation

1)But also resources for Kingdom living

D)All the Resources of the King are made available to me

By depending on the Spirit of God - Living in my life I could have victory over the flesh

A)When the Spirit is in control - the flesh dies

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.

¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Romans 8:12-14

LED = SAIL BOAT DRIVEN BY THE WIND

A) No wind not going anywhere unless you use the motor - no motor no movement

B) Wind grabs the sail and pushes it through the water

C) Spirit of God empowers us

Fight against it or go with it

A) Fighting against it = leads to death

B) Going with it leads to life

How? CHOICE ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16