

## ONLY YOU CAN SPEAK FOR THE VOICELESS

### ESTHER'S PETITION

“So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther’s banquet, <sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favour 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.”

<sup>5</sup> King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?” <sup>6</sup> Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. <sup>7</sup> 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.” - Esther 7:1-7

- The king wanted to know what Esther really wanted.
- She is very respectful in her request to him.
- But she is also direct, knowing that it is her responsibility to speak up as the Jewish people have no other voice. (“spare my people”)
- The king wanted to know the identity of the evil enemy but acted odd/strangely in his rage. *Why did he leave the room?*
  - He realized his foolishness in agreeing to destroy the Jews.
  - He realized his recklessness in putting Haman in such a position.

### HAMAN'S DESTRUCTION

“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. <sup>9</sup> 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!” <sup>10</sup> So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.” - Esther 7:8-10

- Haman sought mercy from Queen Esther by falling before her.
- This was poor timing for him but an excellent opportunity for the king. Haman was accused of molesting the queen.
- His face was quickly covered, and the king was informed of the gallows by Haman’s house. It was ordered that Haman be the one impaled.

### THE ENEMY IS DEAD, BUT THERE IS ANOTHER ENEMY

“That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. <sup>2</sup> The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman’s estate.

<sup>3</sup> Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews.

<sup>4</sup> Then the king extended the gold scepter to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

<sup>5</sup> “If it pleases the king,” she said, “and if he regards me with favour and thinks it the right thing to do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king’s provinces. <sup>6</sup> For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?” - Esther 8:1-6

- Mordecai was declared the new prime minister and given the ring and the property of Haman. (*Why didn’t he make the next request?*)
- The second enemy, the edict, was dealt with quickly. (*Remember that the law of the Persians could not be changed.*)

### THE SOLUTION FOR THE JEWS

“King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up. <sup>8</sup> Now write another decree in the king’s name in behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king’s signet ring—for no document written in the king’s name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.” <sup>9</sup> At once the royal secretaries were summoned... They wrote out all Mordecai’s orders to the Jews, and to the satraps, governors and nobles of the 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush...

<sup>11</sup> The king’s edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children, and to plunder the property of their enemies... <sup>16</sup> For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honour. <sup>17</sup> In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because fear of the Jews had seized them.” - Esther 8:7-11,16-17

- A second edict was sent out giving the Jews the right to protect themselves, and there was rejoicing.
- When God acts, people notice, and many of them became Jews. (*If you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em!*)

### LESSONS WE LEARN:

1. Be careful that your attitudes and actions do not help to silence those who have no voice.
 

“Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.” (3:11)
2. Prepare yourself for the opportunity to speak up for those that have no voice. But when you speak, do so respectfully and with courage.

### OUR KEY THOUGHT

- Only you can speak for those who have no voice!

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