

## **Esther: The King Honors Mordecai (Ch. 6)**

Jeff Randolph

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### **Verses 1-3**

It “just so happens” that the king cannot sleep, and “just so happens” that the king reads about what Mordecai did for him (2:21-23). This starts the final chain of events that will bring down Haman and allow for deliverance of the Jews. God is working.

Who knows how Mordecai felt when no recognition or thanks was given to him, because he never felt the need to mention it or complain about it. While we don't always know when or if our good deeds have been recognized by those whom we help, we need to understand that God recognizes them, and will reward in due time (Matt. 6:1-6).

### **Verses 4-9**

It “just so happens” that Haman is coming at that time to see the king about hanging Mordecai. The arrogance of Haman is further magnified in his assumption that the king was planning to honor him (cf. Rom. 12:3). Assumptions can often get us into trouble, so we should aim to be swift to hear the actual facts of a matter, and slow to come to conclusions about things before we know all the facts (Jas. 1:19; Pr. 18:13).

The interesting thing about Haman's assumption here is that it actually causes him to inadvertently practice the golden rule (Matt. 7:12)! Though what he suggests may have been an honorable thing for anyone at that time, one will notice the focus on public recognition. Haman wanted everyone to know how great he was.

### **Verses 10-11**

Since Haman was the king's “most noble prince” (v. 9), it was he who had to perform what he suggested. The one man who refused to honor him, he now had to honor. He desired honor for himself, but received shame (Pr. 11:2).

### **Verses 12-14**

It is interesting to note that Mordecai just goes back to the gate afterward. This event does not appear to have puffed him up.

Haman's whole world is now falling apart, which is what happens when its based entirely around oneself (Pr. 16:18). His wife sees this happening as she notes he had “begun to fall,” though it's not clear what made her say this after having encouraged him earlier (5:14). Perhaps she was familiar with the Jewish people and their history, and though she hated them, understood Haman's situation as a sign that the Jews would prevail over his plot.

Whatever the case, before Haman had time to reflect on what was happening, he is rushed away to the banquet. The two things to which he looked forward on that day (killing Mordecai and banqueting with the king and queen) were turned upside down. Mordecai was honored rather than killed, and as we will see, Haman is first humiliated, then killed, rather than honored. Who knows what a day may bring forth! (Pr. 27:1; Jas. 4:14)