

Fasting

Part 9

“¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.” (Esther 4:15-17)

Fasting we do it as a commitment and responsible behavior toward God and toward His people in facing the hardship of life and the threats of persecution. Now a day’s no one like to suffer and take some responsibility toward God and toward other people who are under the pressure of the enemy, the devil.

Esther she was the queen, so she thought that she is safe and why should she suffer for others. Because it was risky to go to the king without being called, so she was afraid that she will be losing her position and her life for she said, “ ... ***any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life.***” Many they don’t like to take risk while they are serving the Lord. But that is not possible, the bible tells us that, “***In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.***” (2Timothy 3:12) We are here on earth waiting for the Lord to come and take us. But while we are waiting for the Lord the persecution will come from the devil and attack us. But we should not escape the responsibility to face persecution, for the LORD will be with us to aid us and to support us. So as Esther responded to the call of God in her life. Today the LORD had called you to stand firm and to do your part. Feel the pain of others and take the step forward to help them.

When Esther responded to God’s call the LORD worked it out for her behalf as we can read here: “***On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king’s hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. ² When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. ³ Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.” (Esther 5:1-2)*** Esther received favour from the LORD when she obeyed the call of God and the king accepted her and in advance he granted her request. The same for you as you obey God and accept to do the task when you pray and fast the LORD will grant you favour.

Esther invited the king for a banquet and asked him to bring Haman, therefore both of them went, and Esther requested the king to come for another banquet in the next day so that she will tell him what her request is.

Haman went home happy because he was the only one invited by queen Esther and he boasted about that. But he was enraged when he met Mordecai at the king’s gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence. Haman was filled with rage

against Mordecai. However, “¹⁴ ***His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a gallows built, seventy-five feet high, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai hanged on it. Then go with the king to the dinner and be happy.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the gallows built.” (Esther 5:14)***

But in the next day Mordecai was honoured. That had happened in this way: “¹ ***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. ² 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. ³ “What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?” the king asked. “Nothing has been done for him,” his attendants answered. ⁴ 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 hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him. ⁵ His attendants answered, “Haman is standing in the court.” “Bring him in,” the king ordered. ⁶ 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?” ⁷ So he answered the king, “For the man the king delights to honor, ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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!’” ¹⁰ “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.” ¹¹ So Haman got the robe and the horse. He robbed 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!” ¹² Afterward Mordecai returned to the king’s gate. But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, ¹³ and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, “Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!” ¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs arrived and hurried Haman away to the banquet Esther had prepared.” (Esther 6:1-14) So now we can see clearly that God is moving in behalf of His people. The power of united prayer and fasting now is very clear in this event. The king was not able to sleep and he asked for the book of chronicles to be read to him. God ordained all that to happen, and he opened the king’s eyes to see Mordecai and to honour him. That was the first strike of God against the evil power of darkness that was working against His people. And He made it very clear point to the enemies that they cannot stand against the people of God.***

My Dear and Beloved: We will continue that important event in the next issue, but as if now take heed to trust God fully. The Lord will do the same for you. Even you are facing big problem and huge force but God can help you in all that. He will fight the battle for you and combat all the evil forces. You will see and witness that in your eyes as you have faith and agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God in heaven I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I take courage from your word in facing the threat that is ahead of me. LORD I trust you that you will fight the battle for me and defeat my enemies. Lord gives me more faith and gives me the courage to stand firm. I pray and fast and put the following situation _____ in your hand, LORD solve it to me, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*