



FRESH ENCOUNTER

Last Week: The war within

THE WAR WON

Wed Night

MARCH 13, 2024 | JOHN GOETSCH

There were several groups taken from Jerusalem.

"Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; 6 Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah, king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. 7 And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter." (Esther 2:5-7)

INTRODUCTION

*Last week: 3 people who were "types" of our lives
Ahasuerus (King) had all power in the Kingdom
Haman (King's chief advisor, hated the Jews)
Mordecai (Haman's enemy who wouldn't bow)*

- The war within cannot be won until we get the wrong man out and the right man in control of our life.
- Without the power of the Holy Spirit, there is nothing we can humanly do to stop the powerful flesh that is in control.

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;" (2 Corinthians 3:5)

- A review of the characters:

- Ahasuerus represents the human soul *(decision maker)*
- Haman represents our wicked flesh *(inside the palace)*
- Mordecai represents the Holy Spirit *} outside the palace*
- Esther represents the human spirit *} ↓*

- The human soul and the human spirit are wedded together but they are not the same.

- While the Holy Spirit indwells us at the moment of salvation, often He is not given control of our lives until we intentionally put our flesh on the gallows.
- There are four critical steps to winning this war within:

1. A Relationship BECAUSE OF Adoption

A. A Missing Identity (no relationship with God)

Before
you were
saved

"...for she had neither father nor mother." (Esther 2:7b)

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12)

B. A Miraculous Intervention

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)

"...whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter." (Esther 2:7c)

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14)

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath witness in himself." (1 John 5:10a)

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:16)

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also, after that ye have believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Ephesians 1:13)

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15)

2. A Restriction BECAUSE OF Apathy

Mourning
as if
I were
dead

"When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry." (Esther 4:1)

A. A Blessed Assurance

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. All that the Father giveth to me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in nowise cast out." (John 6:35,37)

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (John 10:28-29)

- B. A Blocked Access *Mordecai is still outside the palace*

"And I brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1,3)

3. A Reservation BECAUSE OF Apprehension

Esther didn't know she was in danger

"Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was, 6 So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. 7 And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. 8 Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. 9 And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai." (Esther 4:5-9)

Haman convinced Amos's to command that all the Jews would be killed

- A. The Fear of Forfeiture *"I'll have to give up something to obey God"*

"Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; 11 All the kings servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days." (Esther 4:10-11)

- B. The Fear of Failure *I won't be popular if I obey God*

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41:10)

4. A Resolve **BECAUSE**
OF Abandonment

A. A Picture of Discipleship

"Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.
14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art com to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-14)

"...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." (Mark 8:34b-35)

B. A Pathway to Deliverance

Prayer

"Then Esther bade them return to Mordecai this answer, Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink these three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:15-16)

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." (Philippians 3:10)

"Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre." (Esther 5:1-2)

CONCLUSION



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