

### Note from Kathy

*Proverbs 16:25 states, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Haman thought he knew what would make him happy. He even thought he knew how to achieve it. But he was wrong. God is the righteous judge. He is sovereign in all his ways and plans. We need not waste time trying to help God see how great our plan is we need only to find his plan and become a part of it.*

### Esther 6:6

*"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?'"*

## Observation

1. This chapter began with King Xerxes suffering from a bit of insomnia. What did he command his servants to read to him until he fell asleep?
2. What fact was brought to light that had previously been overlooked?
3. The king asked what Mordecai had received for this act of kindness. What was the servant's reply?
4. It is late at night, not exactly a busy time in the king's court. The king inquires as to who is present that could handle this matter of honoring a man who had saved his life. Who was there at this unusual hour? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why was Haman in the court? And, do you suppose he came this late in order to have the king all to himself, making it easier to manipulate the king, as he had previously done with the edict about annihilating the Jews?
6. Only God can orchestrate a conversation like we read in Esther 6:6-10. When Haman came in the king inquired as to what should be done for one the king desired to honor. Who did Haman think the king was referring to? Why did he think this? What was his thought process?
7. The king liked this plan and instructed Haman to go at once and carry out every detail, just as he had proposed—for Mordecai the Jew. Can you imagine Haman's surprise? Did Haman have a choice?

8. Haman carried out honoring Mordecai just as he had suggested. Do you think there might have been some shocked looks from the crowd that day? It was really no secret how these two men responded to each other. After the honoring of Mordecai, we see the two men go in separate directions. Mordecai returned to the king's gate. Where did Haman go?

#### Esther 5:13-14

*"And Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the offspring of the Jews, you cannot prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him. <sup>14</sup>While they were yet talking with him, the king's attendants came and hastily brought Haman to the dinner that Esther had prepared."*

9. In the past, Haman's wife and friends had been very little help to him. As a matter of fact, they had thrown gasoline on the fire of his hatred for Mordecai. But in verse 13, what word of warning do they give Haman that he would have been wise to listen to and drop his personal vendetta?
10. Before Haman could discuss things any further, there is a knock at the door. Who is it? What did they want?

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## Application

1. King Xerxes was suffering from a bit of divine insomnia. Have you ever had trouble falling asleep or staying asleep? When it happens do you think it might be God wanting to talk to you while things are very quiet? I normally get up around 5:30, but there are times when I wake up at 4 or 4:30, and I am wide-awake. I cannot go back to sleep. I have learned this is almost always the Lord wanting to show me something from his word. Next time you can't fall asleep or stay asleep, why not get up and see if you are simply experiencing a bit of divine insomnia?
2. Describe a time when you have clearly seen God's sovereign hand at work in your life? Have you ever experienced one of those "it just so happened moments," as we saw in Esther 6:4? Do you see these moments as lucky or God's sovereign hand at work in your life?
3. It had been several years since Mordecai had saved the king's life by reporting a plot to kill him. Men and women may overlook our acts of kindness, but the Lord sees every one, and He will reward at just the right time. How do you respond when it seems an act of kindness that you did was overlooked?

### **Psalms 107:1**

*"O give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good: for his mercy  
endures forever."*

### **Colossians 3:15**

*"And let the peace of God  
rule in your hearts, to which  
you are called in one body;  
and be thankful."*

### **Colossians 3:17**

*"And whatever you do in  
word or deed, do all in the  
name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God and the  
Father by him."*

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

*"In everything give thanks:  
for this is the will of God in  
Christ Jesus concerning you."*

4. While reading this chapter has a situation come to your mind where you may have overlooked expressing your gratitude? Is there someone who deserves to be thanked by you today?
  5. Would you say you have a thankful heart? Is it easy for you to say "thank you?" Expressing gratitude should be an important part of your daily conversation. Read Psalms 107:1, Colossians 3:15, Colossians 3:17, and 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to learn how God feels about gratitude.
  6. Do your prayers reflect more thankfulness or needs?
  7. Mordecai was not angry or bitter, but that is not always the case when a good deed is left unrewarded. It is very important to model thankfulness and to acknowledge acts of kindness. Look for as many opportunities as you can find over the next 24 hours to express gratitude to others. What are some other ways we might cultivate a spirit of thankfulness?
  8. It surprised the king that nothing had been done for Mordecai. He did not want another minute to go by without planning something very special for him. God's timing is always perfect. In spite of the late hour, Haman was in the court, and so he was called in to help the king. The king asked Haman a very simple question, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?" Would the plan have looked a bit different had Haman asked a few questions?
  9. Of course, Haman did not feel he needed to ask any questions. He assumed he knew exactly whom the king wanted to honor. So, he postponed the conversation he had previously planned and came up with an absolutely wonderful plan to honor himself. What was the problem with this plan?
- Have you ever thought you knew exactly what someone was talking about only to find out later you were totally off base? If only you had asked one or two questions.



## Esther 6:8-9

*"...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. <sup>9</sup>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. Haman's plan pleased the king; there was no going back now. Haman had to carry out every detail. As he led Mordecai in one of the king's robes on the king's horse throughout the streets of Susa do you think Haman tried to avoid eye contact with the crowd watching? Have you ever had to do something that totally rubbed you the wrong way? How did you feel while doing it? What did you do after?
11. Haman's wife and friends have changed their tune. They are beginning to see the handwriting on the wall. Their advice has changed, but it is too little too late for Haman. We should be very careful not to stir up another person's heart when they are angry. There are roads they may go down that have no place for a u-turn. When your husband or friend comes in angry over an issue at work what do you say? More often than not, it is enough just to let them blow off steam. Praying for them really is the best thing we can do. Why not ask God to lead them in wisdom and in truth?