29 September- 5 October 2024 Right person, right place, right time

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

**7**So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther’s banquet, **2**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.”

**3**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. **4**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.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther%207%3A%201-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12812a)]”

**5**King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, “Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?”

**6**Esther said, “An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!”

Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen…

**9**Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, “A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther%207%3A%201-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12817b)] 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!” **10**So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.

Esther 9:20-22

New International Version

**Purim Established**

**20**Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, **21**to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar **22**as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

 **Bible notes**

King Ahasuerus of Persia was invited to a grand meal by his wife, Queen Esther. His second-in-command, Haman, came with him. Both Haman and Esther were keeping secrets from the king. Haman had taken money from the king and spent it on a plot to wipe out the Jewish population of Persia. He had done this in the king’s name. Esther’s secret was a little different: she was hiding the fact that she was Jewish. She hadn’t told anyone because she was afraid. The Jewish people had come as prisoners to Persia. Esther had been chosen to be queen because the king got rid of his previous queen. Her husband, King Ahasuerus, was a harsh and powerful man, and Esther didn’t want to upset him. She asked all the Jewish people to pray and fast before she revealed her secret to the king. Esther was determined to be brave because the Jewish people needed God’s protection.

 **Reflection**

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

Being the right person does not mean being perfect: to be physically whole has no merit compared with being righteous in God’s sight. By controlling the wayward urges of our hands, feet and eyes, we bring ourselves into a place where God can use us. Contrary to popular trends of ‘having it all’, immediately, we can exercise discretion and ‘watch our step’. We can choose to stay ‘salty’ (valuable and useful) and also recognise that sometimes God’s work is done by those outside of our church. What are our personal stumbling blocks? It might be frustration at our limitations or an excess of resources that come with time-consuming responsibilities. What might you do to remove a stumbling block in your life, or in the life of your church?

Questions for reflection

**First impressions**

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.

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| A group of people holding a banner  Description automatically generated |  |

**Questions**

* Have you ever been the right person in the right place at the right time?
* Is God calling you to speak up about a particular issue?
* How can you help others to find their calling?

##  Prayer

*Adapt to your local context.*

God of our deliverance,
thank you for sending those who have been in the right place
at the right time to help us in our hour of need.
Thank you for all those people of courage who risk their lives to serve others.
Help us too to be brave
and to be people who take a stand for truth and grace.
For your name’s sake
**Amen.**

 **A prayer to end the Bible study**

May we listen for God’s call,
know his strength,
see where he is leading us,
be faithful in doing his work
and make way for his kingdom.
**Amen.**