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## McInteer Sermon Outlines - Esther

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# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Esther 4:18-14

## I. God moves among men.

A. Tell of our bus driver in Copenhagen - member of the church. Borge Olsen.

B. Esther moved into arena of God's activity at a propitious time.

1. Tell her story.

2. Then ask, "Why am I here?"

## II. Story of Esther.

A. Facts about her.

1. Name means Star, implies good fortune, she is as Lockwood said in splendid galaxy of Heb. women.

2. Other name Hadassah = myrtle.

3. Last woman of O.T. of whom we intimately know anything.

4. Lived 600 B.C.

5. Preferred to stay in Persia than go back to Jerusalem.

6. Became queen of greatest empire on earth at that time.

7. Woman of unusual beauty, enhanced by character & personality.

8. Name is in an OT book that never mentions God or a divine name. (Was the HS wrong to leave himself out?)

9. Some say her marriage wrong via Persian account since they were supposed to marry into one of 7 great families of royalty.

B. Crisis came due to decree.

1. Haman, Hitler of O.T.

2. Jews to be annihilated.
3. Mordecai rent clothes, sackcloth, ashes, midst of city cried c loud voice & bitter cry.
4. Great moaning among all the Jews.
5. Esther's maids told her.
  - a.) Grieved.
  - b.) Sent clothes (that his troubles light - suggests he change clothes) refused - inflexible.
  - c.) Sent word to see what this demonstration was all about.
6. She got full story - nothing held back.
7. Commissioned to go to King & make request (V.8).
8. Said couldn't - not invited - meant death.

### III. Mordecai's Ans.

#### Esther 4:13-14

- A. "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the King's house, more than all the Jews (V. 13).
    1. It was her own cause as well. *Don't shut window of*
    2. Her head would not be exempt. *Soul against the light*
    3. Lam. asks, "Is it nothing to you that pass by?"
    4. Neglect of duty apt to provoke heavy retribution.
    5. Possible for a nation to be saved & me lost.
    6. "Only hope" not tied to one person because cause is bigger than any one person.
  - B. If you won't do it, somebody else will (V. 14).
    1. Somebody will victoriously do it.
    2. Might as well be you. *Believed in the future.*
    3. To be fearful is to invite ruin.
    4. Instruments may fail but God's promise & purpose won't. *If likeliest fails "raise up unlikely."*
- He did not believe in 2 Providence that weaken human responsibility*

- 5. All dangers are trifling, except the one of losing our soul.
- 6. God has a number of ways to get His work done.
- 7. If we fail, He is not hindered - we just lose out on His perfection in us.
- 8. Enlargement - lit. breathing space.

C. Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

- 1. Divine providence had an eye on this to bring her to be current queen.
- 2. Questions we'll come back to later.

D. Esther's answer (15-17).

- 1. Sought divine help to guide.
- 2. Courageously would go as a patriot.
- 3. Renounces self & exerts self for others.
- 4. Uses fasting & prayer.
- 5. Wants others' prayers - as there is strength in them.
- 6. Those confined may via prayer be joined to those who assemble.

IV. For Me Today!

- A. Do we remember the simple people from whence we sprang?
- B. Do I see opportunities that are about me?
- C. To what end has God put me in the place where I now am? *God works Thru HUMAN AGENTS*
- D. If an opportunity of service is present, will we pursue it?
- E. Do I see the golden sceptre of God's grace extended me? Do His words extend royal favor & turn

anger away?

F. "There's a Divinity that shapes our ends  
Rough hew them, how we will"

G. Opportunities come in every place -  
seize them for they are brief.

West End 10-21-79

Nicholas Murray Butler, a former president of Columbia University, said, "There are three kinds of people in the world--those who don't know what's happening, those who watch what's happening, and those who make things happen."

#1

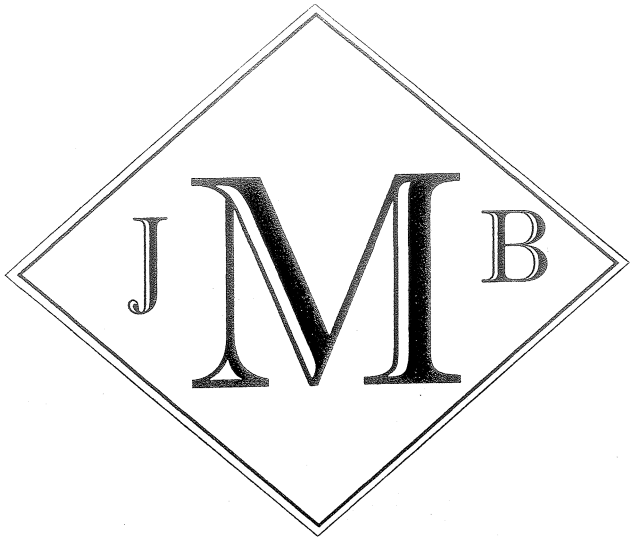
The Making of a Christian Leader, by Ted W. Engstrom,  
p20.

Our nation and world today are faced with problems that appear insurmountable. Security and defense leaders are confused, alienated, and demoralized. Morals are at an all time low. Moral standards are almost nonexistent. The growing national debt, bankrupt nations, financial troubles cities, and economic instability create more alarm each passing day. Amid these grave circumstances, our generation is facing an equally serious problem: a leadership crisis.

The Making of a Christian Leader, by Ted W. Engstrom.  
Introduction, 1st page.

In the last several decades the institutional church has been maligned from both within and without. "Meanwhile," says Kenneth O. Gangel, "the barbarian society continues to paganize Western culture. The salt and light of Christ's disciples were never more needed. Someone has suggested that we live in a world 'come full cycle,' with society's norms reflecting a greater likeness to ancient Rome than those of any intervening civilization. The need for the church's life and ministry to touch the marketplace in Athens is apparent to all who care to notice."

The Making of a Christian Leader, by Ted W. Engstrom.  
Introduction, page 4.





# HANG HIM AND HANG HIM HIGH

Esther 7

- I. Grab the side of your pew or the hang of one by whom you are seated. I can't imagine a shorter or a more rapid moving chapter - Esther 7.
  
- II. At a great palace, Shusham in Persia we quickly meet:
  - A. The king--Ahasuerus, Xerxes--bold, powerful, sensual.
  - B. Esther - his queen.
    1. Another name, Hadamah- Myrtle.
    2. Esther= star, an orphan, Jewess but the king doesn't know it.
    3. Thus "sathes" = to hide.
    4. Of Benjamin tribe.
    5. With Ruth, one of two women for whom a Bible book is named.
    6. Yet this book never mentions the name of God.
    7. "Fair of form and good countenance."
    8. Her grace and loveliness soon noticed- dark(?), compared to Persian blondness?
    9. Self-controlled, intelligent as Matthew Henry wrote "her wisdom and her virtue was her greatest beauty, but it is an advantage to a diamond to be well set."

10. Luther was hostile to the book and "I would it did not exist... it has a great deal of heathenish naughtiness... worthy to be excluded.
11. Yet Jews have a two-day annual feast of Purim where they read the whole book with great rejoicing though the name of God, I repeat, not in it. (What about Song of Solomon)?
12. She walks in beauty like the night of cloudless climbs and starry skies; and all that's best of dark and bright meet in her aspect and her eyes. (Bryon)

#### C. Haman

1. More later.
2. Jew's Adolph Hitler.
3. No one speaks up for him.
4. "Though the mills of God grind slowly yet they grind exceedingly small."
5. He leaves his home that invited morn thinking it must be a great day of achievement only to die.
6. It's Haman's last supper but it all starts so relaxed--an invitation by the queen to a festive affair.

### III. Now the second day perhaps.

A. Queen Esther what's your petition, what's your request--be performed even to half the kingdom? said king.

1. It was at a banquet of wine  
Persian manner to linger at table  
for fruits and desserts as his  
curiosity peaks.
2. Request had come day before.
3. He'd inquired many times before  
5: 3 and 6.
4. Keeps coming with request.
5. Husbands don't like to be teased  
say "tell me!"
6. It's sharp of you girls to know  
when to be quiet and when to  
speak.

B. Esther thinks it's time to speak.

V.3 "Answered and said, If I have found  
favour in thy sight..."

1. King finds out for first time his  
wife is Jewess.
2. Tense drama starts to unfold.
3. She's now in position of power  
brought by her beauty, charm,  
tact, above all other women and  
the providence of God unfolds.
4. The burden of nationality she's  
carried can be dropped.

Prov. 16:1 "The plans of the heart in man,  
and the answer of the tongue,  
is from the Lord."

5. She makes no demands nor then an accusation, only an appeal, modestly voiced.
6. She casts her lot with her people being the realization if "I perish."
7. Now at the right moment she tells all.

*Cause  
to perish  
destroy kill*

8. "Sold 10,000 talents to the king" (though you did not know you were selling me in law of Persia that cannot be changed).
9. "I could not hold my tongue and be a bond slave--though there was no ~~way~~ <sup>way</sup> my Jewish kin could be replaced in labor market."
10. Yet slavery so insignificant I would not have troubled the king.
11. Social standing does not matter, but the worth of the empire does.
12. If Jews are destroyed who will do the work?
13. Read 3:13.
14. Note progression: destroyed, slain, perish.
15. Haman's talents could not possibly pay for loss of Jewish work.

16. But greater in loss, death is over slavery.
17. All this, plus startling fact queen is condemned Jewish.
18. Haman too startled as he did not know Esther was Jewish.
19. Are our faces set against suffering, injustice, violence?

C. Now the bomb-burst.

1. Note Esther has brought no names.
2. King asks V-5, "who is he, where is he that durst presume in his heart to do so?"
3. Who could possibly initiate such an action against the queen?
4. Her words arouse curiosity.
5. King wants it from queen's own lips.
6. Note she is not asking just for herself, her people, the whole nation.
7. Esther's opportunity has come at last.

D. Verse 6 - her answer.

1. The adversary
2. The enemy.
3. The wicked Haman!
4. King could expect foe, enemy, but not Haman his favorite.

5. Should she have invited Haman to the banquet? Could she risk the king not believing her?
  6. Was she accusing him behind his back?
  7. Should she ask for mercy for Haman; she didn't know how the king would decide as he'll rush out of the banquet hall.
  8. Her hands are tied too.
  9. She'd shrewdly built her case before the criminal accusation.
  10. "The mellow mood of the banquet exploded." (Hess)
- E. Then Haman was afraid.
1. He's cornered.
  2. He has nowhere to go.
- F. The king bolts out the door (V-7).
1. He has to decide between his favorite Jewish wife and his first in favor, Haman.
  2. Could his favorite employee plot against the king?
  3. Is the king safe as long as Haman is alive?
  4. Had Haman really concocted the whole thing?
  5. King's in a rage, he must control himself so cool off in night air.

6. He's humiliated in that he could not earlier see the whole thing and only now see Haman as he is.
7. If I get rid of Haman it changes the whole governmental structure.
8. Feelings may be too deep for utterance.
9. Silence was ominous.
10. Couldn't speak, couldn't sit still.
11. Sometimes we wait and it's too late, mercy is beyond us.
12. In the presence of the judge, prayer may be too late.

Rev. 6:13-17

13. How do you feel when you finally see yourself in the wrong after trying for years to justify yourself?

#### G. The king returns.

1. Haman has fallen across Esther on the couch.
2. Of all times to stumble!  
Appearance of rape.
3. Like the grown man arrested, bolts away crying "momma."
4. No place to go but Esther's feet.
5. Did he fall?
6. Palace etiquette never closer than seven feet near queen.

7. Accuses Haman of rudeness.

Lit  
crucifix

H. Face covered - gallows 80 feet high, Haman's yard. "Hang him." Wrath pacified. *Never see King's face again*

1. Haman could not stand to have just one Jew not bow to him, now he swings before whole nation.
2. Whoso digs a pit shall fall therein and he that rolls a stone it will return upon him.
3. Haman died on the gallows of his own construction so shall every impenitent sinner perish of his own waywardness.

*I. Great events are sometimes brought to pass by ungodly men*

*S. We are rescued from a greater "enemy"*

*K. As we come to the King, we deserve nothing but wrath, get grace*

Neely's Bend BIG DAY - 5/7/07

Central C/C - 5/7/07

Adairville, KY - 10/21/07 (P.M.)

Cumberland Mt. State Park - 11/11/07



