

"A Time to Remember"

Esther 9-10

Introduction: As we come back once again to our study of Esther, we find the Jews have been delivered from the death sentence and they have victoriously defended themselves against the Gentiles who were determined to kill them. When we were together the last time, we look at 4 keys to the Jews victory over the Gentiles.

- **Surrender**
- **Unity and Fellowship**
- **The Sword**
- **Contentment**

As we return to our study this evening, I want us to see the results of what happened when Haman died, and Mordecai was given the king's ring and the position of Haman.

I. The Results

Notice Esther 9:15-19

The Jews in the provinces celebrated their victory on the 14th day of Aadar and the Jews in Shushan celebrated on the 15th day of Adar. In both cases there are two blessings mentioned.

1. Rest
2. Gladness/Joy

Both of these are the result of a change of power. Before Mordecai came into power there was fear, worry, and stress. But when the change of power happened their fear and worry turned to joy and rest.

Application:

The picture for us to see here is a picture of the believer's life. Haman, as we had looked at before was a type of the sin nature/the flesh. Mordecai is a picture of the New Nature/the Spirit of God within each born again believer. We now have a choice in our walk. We can be controlled by the Holy Spirit, or we can be controlled by the flesh. To be controlled by the Spirit is to exercise faith in the Truth of God's Word.

Hebrews 10:38

³⁸ **Now the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Romans 6:6-13

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

⁸ *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

⁹ *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

¹⁰ *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

When we walk by faith, and we are controlled by the Holy Spirit it is then that we can experience the rest which God has for each one of us.

Hebrews 4:1-3, 6

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

² *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

³ *For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

⁶ *Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*

Canaan was a picture of the believer's rest in the Old Testament. When Israel came to Kadesh Barnea under the leadership of Moses they listened to the negative report of the spies, and they would not believe that God would give them the victory over the inhabitants. Therefore they could not enter in because of unbelief. The numbered men would die, and the next generation would enter Canaan.

There is a Canaan/rest for us today. It is not a geographical place, and it is not a certain day. We rest in Jesus Christ. To enter God's rest today we must believe He will fight the battles for us. We must trust Him with every situation which we face no matter how intimidating it is. We must believe that He has permitted the situation to come upon us and believe that it is for our good and His glory. When we walk by this kind of faith and we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, it is then that we enter into God's rest.

Hebrews 4:9-10

⁹ *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

¹⁰ *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*

A believer who has entered God's rest is someone who has come to the place where they have stopped trying to fix the situation in their own power and they have given it over to the Lord to allow Him to do what He knows is best.

Psalms 46:10

¹⁰ *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

This verse is a description of ceasing from our works. The words "BE STILL" have the idea of dropping our hands to our side as no longer trying to use our power to bring about our desired results.

Our Lord longs for us to enter into His rest.

Matthew 11:28-29

²⁸ *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Getting back to Esther, the gladness/joy which the Jews experienced is a picture of the joy which our Lord desires for us to experience.

Notice Esther 9:22

John 15:10-11

¹⁰ *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

¹¹ *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

This joy which Jesus is speaking of comes from walking in fellowship with Him.

Many believers look for joy in the wrong places. They look to circumstances, relationships, and the entertainment of life. But these things only provide a shallow joy at best. If this is where you search for your joy, then I can assure you that your joy comes and goes because these things are constantly changing. Circumstances, relationships, and entertainment will leave you very down and discouraged if this is where you look for your joy. Circumstances change all the time; people make poor decisions every day and worldly entertainment only lasts for a short time.

True joy comes in walking with the Lord and in trusting Him because these three things change from day to day. True joy comes as we walk with Him, and we trust in His Word.

Romans 8:28, 31-32, 35, 37-39

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Passages such as this is where we get TRUE joy from. The closer the walk the deeper the joy.

II. The Remembrance

Notice Esther 9:20-28

Mordecai wrote letters to the Jews to encourage them to establish the 14th day and the 15th day of Adar as memorial days so that as time went on, they would not forget how they had been delivered from death. Mordecai knew that as the years passed by and the Jews would move further away from what happened here that there would be the danger of forgetting how they were delivered. To make the two days of deliverance a national memorial would be a sure way for them to be reminded and to teach their children.

God warned Isarel about forgetting Him when they came into the land of Canaan.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

¹⁰ And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

¹¹ And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

¹² Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Getting back to Esther, God is in favor of memorials.

Joshua 4:4-9

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

⁵ And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

⁶ *That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?*

⁷ *Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.*

⁸ *And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.*

⁹ *And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.*

Conclusion:

We have all witnessed the mighty hand of God sometime as He has delivered us from a difficult situation. Many of us also forget about it the next time a test or trial comes our way. Let us learn to build memorials so that we can be reminded that our God is greater than anything that we face. We can all identify with the Psalmist.

Psalm 30:11-12

¹¹ *Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness;*

¹² *To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.*