



GOD'S MASTERPIECE

Then Queen Esther answered,
"If I have found favor in your sight, O king,
and if it pleases the king, let my life be
granted me for my wish, and my people for my request."

Esther 7:3

(ESV)

LESSON 8

God's Perfect Timing

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Lesson 8 God's Perfect Timing

Esther 7:1-10

OUR TIME VS. GOD'S TIME

- A. Finally the good **guys** are **winning!**
- B. What is our time perspective?
 - 1. Our time is **objectively measured.**
 - 2. Our time is **tangible.**
 - 3. Our time is **rarely ignored.**
- C. What is God's time perspective?
 - 1. His time is **without boundaries.**
 - 2. His time is **immeasurable.**
 - 3. His time is **absolutely intangible.**

WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT

"No matter how we rationalize, God will sometimes seem unfair from a person trapped in time. Only at the end of time, after we have attained God's level of viewing...only then will fairness reign. ...Until then, we will not know, and can only trust in a God Who does know."

Philip Yancey

- A. Is He silent?
 - 1. **Yes**, there are **times** He is silent.
 - 2. Yes, He is **silently working.**
- B. Understanding God's silence

"Has God trusted you with His silence – a silence that has great meaning? God's silences are actually His answer."

Oswald Chambers

1. **Consider** what God is **saying**.
2. **Watch** for subtle **changes**.
3. **Prepare** for dramatic **change**.
4. **Expect** a surprise **ending**.

C. How do we cope with God's silence?

"A wonderful thing about God's silence is that His stillness is contagious – it gets into you, causing you to become perfectly confident so that you can honestly say, "I know that God has heard me."

Oswald Chambers

1. **Realize** the silent period is neither **accidental** nor **fatal**.
2. **Remember** that God's workings are **unrelated** to our limited **perspectives**.
3. **Remind** ourselves that there are no **coincidences** in life.

CHARACTER QUALITIES OBSERVED IN ESTHER

- A. She had **sensitivity** to God's **leading**.
- B. She had **humility**.
- C. She had a **non-critical spirit**.
- D. She had an ability to **handle** conflict **wisely**.
 1. She boldly **addresses** issues at hand.
 2. She does not **manipulate**.
 3. She uses her **tongue wisely**.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM HAMAN

- A. **Callousness** leads to cold-hearted **evil**.
- B. **Self-preservation** leads to going beyond **propriety**.

"The arrogant bully became, as usually in the face of disaster, a whiling coward."

Dr. S. Goldman

- C. When we are **self-absorbed**, we can be **friendless**.

IN SUMMARY...

"When will we ever learn? At the precise moment when it will have its greatest impact, God ceases His silence and sovereignly makes His moves. And when He does, it's full of surprises."

Charles Swindoll