

## Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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### Get Out of the Enemy's Territory!

Judas, Jesus' betrayer, walked in the enemy's territory (Mt 26.47. 48). He harbored greed in his heart and enjoyed carrying the moneybag because he was a thief (Jn 12.4-6). This gave Satan an open door to enter Judas and control him. Judas also entered into the enemy's territory and walked with the enemy when he went to the religious leaders and agreed to betray Jesus (Jn 18.1-4; Lk 22.3, 4).

Simon the sorcerer believed on Jesus through Philip's preaching and was baptized. But, he did not get out of the enemy's territory; he held onto his desire for power and recognition as a great leader. When he saw the Holy Ghost was given through the laying on of Peter's and John's hands, he wanted to buy that power (Acts 8.9-22).

One way of walking in the enemy's territory is to allow Satan to fill our minds and hearts with thoughts and desires that are contrary to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we hold on to pride and selfish ambitions, or hurts, anger, etc., we are opening ourselves to attack and control by the enemy.

Another way of walking in the enemy's territory is to try to fight him in his territory and with his methods. The Lord Jesus Christ set before us how to walk with Him (Jesus), and there are those who have lived His teaching knowing that to be in the enemy's territory is to be one with the enemy. There are those who have set before us *The Way* of the Lord Jesus Christ in a specific way that we might learn how not to walk in the enemy's territory. Let us look at Queen Esther's example (Esther, Chapters Five and Seven).

Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on [her] royal [apparel], and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: . . . and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that [was] in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter (Esther 5, 1, 2).

Esther, properly dressed in royal apparel, was accepted by the king. He granted Esther life when he held out the golden scepter to her. Let us wear our royal apparel, that is, be clothed in the righteousness of Christ, when we go

Let us, as did the Apostle Paul, keep before us the prize for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3.14) to which He has called us. Be not satisfied short of abiding in Him!

Life now and **forevermore** with the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) is a choice one must make daily. Haman made his choice and went to his death. Esther chose not to live in the enemy's territory – and lived.

It is written in the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapters 28-32, that we have to choose life – or death. To choose the Lord Jesus Christ is to live with Him in heaven through all eternity; to choose Satan is to die in our sins and miss heaven through all eternity. Which will you choose this day?

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**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

before the King to make our requests known to Him. Then as the King accepts us and holds out to us the golden “scepter” of life, let us “touch” it by accepting in faith the life provided us through Jesus Christ and the power and authority over the enemy granted to the saints through the Name of Jesus.

When we accept that “golden scepter” that God offers us through Jesus, let us be careful to yield to the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives – daily. Let us not remain in nor enter into the enemy’s territory.

Notice that, even though Esther was accepted by the king and had his promise to grant her request, she did not confront the enemy immediately. She did not talk to him or try to reason with him. She chose to meet the enemy, not in his territory, but in the presence of the king. Before she exposed Haman, Esther prepared a banquet in her quarters on two consecutive days to which she invited the king and Haman. It was here in the king’s presence where the royal wine of the kingdom was served that she was strengthened and the enemy weakened. It was here that she could expose Haman and his diabolical plan and defeat him.

It is significant that there were two banquets of wine. It was at Shushan the palace where Haman had become entrenched, his power and strength the greatest, his stronghold established and recognized. Haman exposed, his demise imminent, there still was to be a battle to completely destroy his stronghold; there were his ten sons and his friends with whom to contend.

Though the battle had not yet been decreed, it would be twice as intense here as in the outlying provinces, requiring two days to sufficiently tear down his stronghold (Est 9.12-15). Esther was not yet aware of how the enemy’s decree and his stronghold would be destroyed; but she wisely chose a “double portion” of the king’s presence and the royal wine before exposing a strong enemy. Being in God’s presence strengthens a child of God while it weakens the enemy.

Saints, when we face a powerful onslaught of Satan’s forces, we need a double portion of the Holy Spirit before doing battle against Satan. Let us face the enemy only after we have done the following:

1) We have confessed and repented of all our sins, have been cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb and clothed in the righteousness of Christ, our royal apparel. (Even those who have known Jesus for many years need often to repent of their sins.)

2) We have feasted on the Royal Wine of the Kingdom, the Holy Spirit, sufficiently to stand in the battle knowing that in some battles a double portion of the power of the Holy Spirit is needed – and, in some cases, fasting.

3) We have prepared to confront the enemy in God’s presence – not in the enemy’s territory where he is stronger.

Esther 7.6-9 shows the fear of the enemy when exposed in the presence of the king. It also shows one of Satan’s most powerful methods of defeating God’s people.

And Esther said, The adversary and enemy [*is*] this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath [*went*] into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther [*was*]. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house?

Haman pled with Esther for his life; and when the king returned from the palace garden and saw Haman fallen on the bed whereon Esther was, the king saw this as an act of seduction. It can be understood as if Haman were saying, “Grant me life by letting me become one with you.” Esther refused to listen to him.

Was there ever a time in the world when Satan made such an effort to become one with the Church – as there is today? God’s people are encouraged “to tolerate other religions and their gods, to integrate their beliefs with ours, to learn about their beliefs and what we have in common.” People of God, there is **no** common ground with the enemy!

On an individual level, many people, who say they have accepted Jesus as Savior, young and old, are following the ungodly ways of the world – acting like the world, looking like the world, taking part in worldly activities and lifestyles. They are remaining in the enemy’s territory and are ignoring the Word of God which addresses these things as sin. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death...” (Rom 6.23).

In essence Satan is saying, “Give me life; let me be one with you” – individually and collectively. All Satan needs from us is a foothold; it will give him life, but **it will give us death**.

May we set our eyes upon nothing short of one hundred percent surrender to Jesus Christ – a life of walking with Him, not giving a foothold to Satan nor walking in Satan’s territory. Let us be quick to acknowledge and repent of any thought or desire that is not of the Lord Jesus Christ and replace those with thoughts from the Lord Jesus, giving praise, honor, and glory to God and His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.