



E.C.H.O. ~ Encouragement Can Help Others

Volume 8 Edition 01 26 January 2004

"AS WE HAVE THEREFORE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD UNTO ALL MEN, ESPECIALLY UNTO THEM WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH. . . . PLEASANT WORDS ARE AS AN HONEYCOMB, SWEET TO THE SOUL, AND HEALTH TO THE BONES. . . . FINALLY, ALL OF YOU BE OF ONE MIND, HAVING COMPASSION FOR ONE OF ANOTHER; LOVE AS BROTHERS, BE TENDERHEARTED, BE COURTEOUS:"

GALATIANS 6:10; PROVERBS 16:24; 1 PETER 3:8

CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE:

1-MEMORY VERSES; 2-DEVOTIONAL

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO

" . . . Revive me, O LORD, according to your word." (Psalm 119:107 NKJV)

1 - MEMORY VERSE

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7NKJV

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." *Hebrews 10:22*

2 - DEVOTIONAL:

(*Esther 5 & 6*)

At the request of Esther Mordecai (and many others) fasted for 3 days, with no food or drink... During this time, the Lord prepared Esther, the king, and Haman for what was yet to unfold. Haman was scheming the most wicked and vilest plan he could conjure up in his bitter, angry, and hateful mind, and Esther allowed the Lord to work miraculously through her servant-like ways.

Queen Esther prepared herself donning her royal clothing, and came before the king without invitation. Here she lay's in the fate of the king's heart. Will she be killed for approaching the mighty ruler without invitation, or will she live by the mercy of the king's scepter? How amazing it is to see the way the king views Esther. He has a compassion towards her beauty and is willing to legally give her anything she desire's, up to ½ of the kingdom.... And how much greater is our Heavenly King towards those who belong to HIM????? HE has such a compassion and love that in our wickedly sinful condition HE made a way to allow us to come to HIM without our death being required. Our greatest gift ever given, through the cross of Jesus Christ,

by HIS perfect sacrifice, dying for our sins, being buried, and rising three days later – we have permission to come before the throne and have wondrous fellowship with our creator and master.

The king admired the beauty of his queen, and upon gazing at her breathtaking presence; he presents the scepter of salvation and allows her into his presence. And when asked what is it she would like to have granted, she only makes a simple request stating, “If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said.”

“So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.” (5:9 nkjv)

Haman restrains himself, calls for his friends and wife to come to him, and begins to brag about his wealth and position with the king, and furthermore he expresses how only he and the King is invited by the Queen for a special banquet. But even with this, he was aggravated at Mordecai, so Zeresh, Haman's wife, and his friends devise a plan to have a gallows made, and in the morning make a suggestion to the king to have Mordecai hanged.

But that night, the King was unable to sleep, so he has his book of records brought to him and begins review events from the past, where lo and behold, Mordecai's name appears, and the king is reminded how his life was saved by the words of Mordecai. The king inquires, and finds that nothing was ever done to honor Mordecai for his noble and honorable deed.

Haman then appears standing in the court, and the king invites him in, and questions, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?"

“Now Haman thought in his heart, ‘Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?’ And Haman answered the king, ‘For the man whom the king delights to honor, let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!”’”

“Then the king said to Haman, ‘Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.’

“So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!’” (6:6-11 nkjv)

After the parade ended, Mordecai goes back to the king's gate, and Haman heads off like a whipped dog with his tail between his legs, and mourns for what the king had him do. He tells his wife and friends about his disgrace, and before they finished talking, a servant of the king comes and gathers Haman to bring him to the banquet Queen Esther has prepared.

Haman had gathered counsel from his friends and wife to scheme a terrible plan to get rid of Mordecai, and in chapter 3 we see that Haman "sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus-the people of Mordecai" (3:6 nkjv). And now, we've seen Mordecai given great honor by the king in the form of a parade. Imagine what the people would think or say if Mordecai was hanged the next day? Here's a man honored by the king one day, and hanged in the gallows the next? Here we see the Lord protecting... and laying down a set of events, which will begin to unfold in a manner not ever expected by Haman and his wicked friends.

Again, Esther is seen with patience, and trust in the Lord. She does not hurry into to king, even when the king states he will grant anything up to 1/2 of the kingdom... the Queen does not yet petition for Mordecai and her kinsfolk, she allows the Lord to prepare the right timing, during the right circumstances, following the right events. The dominos are being prepared, and soon we shall see the grand display as they tumble to unfold in a manner that brings glory and honor to God.

How do I trust in the Lord today? How do I rely on HIS timing, HIS truth, and HIS guidance/direction? How much glory and honor does God receive through the actions of my life today? After seeing and reading the life of Esther, I see the need to have patience with HIM and not to try and rush into everything blindly and with my own desires and wishes at stake. Esther brings us a great example of trust, faith, and patience in the Lord.

"My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

"Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones." (Prov 3:1-8 nkjv)

"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded." James 4:8

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Hebrews 10:22

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
Sincerely yours.*

*Daniel McIntosh
Philippians 1:6*

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO

***TO BE REMOVED FROM E.C.H.O., reply an empty e-mail message with
"UNSUBSCRIBE - ECHO" in the subject box.***

ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO ~ ECHO