

Esther - Don't Count Your Chickens ...

Esther 6 ❖ James 4:13-16

“God works through the miraculous, but more often it is through something far simpler. We need to develop the skill of reflecting more on the seemingly ordinary events of life to appreciate how God has been at work in our daily experience.”
 (“The Message of Esther,” David G. Firth, p. 99)

Providence

During the Summer of 2014, I was preparing to be deployed to _____. The night before I was to fly to Naval Station Norfolk for the final workup, I was told that the mission had been _____ and that I was going to be deployed to _____, Cuba ... in a month. During that month, I would end up being _____, and during my deployment, my Dad _____. God, of course, _____ those “ordinary” events.

In your life, too, there have been _____ “ordinary” events through which God worked out what was _____ for you and those you love.

“We know that in _____ things God works for the _____ of those who _____ Him, who have been called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

One night long ago in ancient Persia, God was working out what was best for _____ and His people through the _____ “ordinary” event of a King with _____.

“That night (*that is, the night Haman had the giant _____ built on which to _____ Mordecai, Queen Esther’s cousin*) the King could not _____” (Esther 6:1). A more literal translation of the Hebrew is that “God would not _____ him sleep.”

The King’s _____ for insomnia was to have a servant read the history of his reign! As he was drifting off to _____, something caught his attention - Mordecai had not been _____ five years earlier when he had prevented an assassination attempt on the King.

The King was now wide _____, for God had _____ his insomnia to preempt Haman’s request to have Mordecai _____.

Divine Delay

Several _____ had passed between the time Mordecai had provided the information which saved the King’s _____ and the night that the King discovered he had not been _____.

How often are we _____ with God’s timing?

We can find real _____ when we learn to accept the fact that God will do what is _____ according to His _____, not ours.

“Pride Goeth Before a Fall”

Don’t count your chickens before they’re _____.

When Haman arrived at the palace, both he and the King wanted to talk about _____, but for vastly different reasons.

“What should be done for the _____ the King delights to _____?” the King asked Haman, who thought to himself, “Who is there that the King would rather honor than _____?” So he said, “Dress him in a royal _____ the King has worn and put him on a _____ the King has ridden. Then have one of the King’s most noble _____ lead him through the city streets proclaiming, “This is what is done for the man the King _____ to honor!”

“Go at _____,” the King commanded Haman, “and do just what you have suggested for Mordecai the _____.” Wouldn’t you have loved to see the _____ on Haman’s face?!

“You boast and _____. All such boasting is _____” (James 4:16).

Takeaway

How are you seeing God at work in the ordinary events of your life?

God’s _____ is rarely ours.

“Since they hid their _____ for me without _____ and _____ cause dug a _____ for me, may ruin overtake them by _____ - may the _____ they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit to their _____” (Psalm 35:7-8).

