

VENGEANCE IS MINE . . .
Sermon Outline — Esther 8:1–9:17
Sermon Series: Esther — For Such A Time As This
December 4, 2022
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1. Esther 8:1-2 reminds us that God expects us to _____ to us with _____.
 - + *James 1:17*, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (ESV).
 - + *Psalms 24:1*, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him” (NLT).
2. Esther 8:3-4 reminds us that when God blesses us, we to use that blessing to _____.
 - + *Luke 12:48*, Jesus said, “When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required” (NLT).
 - + *2 Corinthians 9:7-8*, “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁸You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully” (NLT).
 - The Greek New Testament word translated as “cheerful” is [ἡλάρος; hilaros]. It is where we get our English word “_____.”
3. Esther 8:5-10 reminds us to take _____ for our wrong by _____ and _____ them.
 - By asking King Xerxes to revoke the edict he had signed into law, Esther is asking the king to admit that he had made a _____.
 - Question: When it is clear to everyone else you have made a mistake, do you get _____ and _____ or are you _____ and _____?
 - + *Proverbs 8:13*, “The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate” (ESV).
 - + *Proverbs 11:2*, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom” (ESV).
 - + *Proverbs 15:5*, “Everyone proud and arrogant in heart is disgusting, hateful, and exceedingly offensive to the Lord; be assured they will not go unpunished” (AMP).
4. Esther 8:11-15 reminds us that God has a way of _____.
 - Christian author and pastor Chuck Swindoll says about this: “Do you think it isn’t worthwhile to stand against wrong laws? Do you think it is futile to stand in favor of life in the womb and against abortion? Here is a classic example of why we should boldly stand and fight to affirm truth, even though it appears existing laws will never change.”¹
 - + *Psalms 30:5b*, “Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning” (NLT).
5. Esther 8:15-17 reminds us to thank God for _____.

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, *Great Lives Series*, “Esther,” Kindle, p. 158.

6. Esther 9:1-10 reminds us that God does not shield us from all _____.

- + *Esther 9:1*, “Now came the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, when the king’s law was about to be carried out. It was the day when those who hated the Jews hoped to get the rule over them. But their plan was turned around, and the Jews ruled over those who hated them” (NLT).
- The word translated as “hope” is the rare Hebrew word [שִׁבְּרָה, sibberu]. It refers to someone waiting with great anticipation. In other words, many Persians were still salivating, still planning go to ahead and implement attacks on the Jews as easy prey.

7. Esther 9:11-16 reminds us that _____ is not ours to take.

- Ezra, the author of the Book of Esther, mentions several times that the Jews were given legal permission to not only fight back but also to plunder any Persian citizen they defeated. Yet, _____ times Ezra informs us that the Jews “took no plunder” (vv. 9:10, 15, 16).²
- + *Romans 12:17-19*, “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord” (ESV).
- + *Proverbs 12:18*, “There is person whose rash and harsh words pierce worse than a sword thrusts” (PAR).
- Charles Swindoll puts it this way, “It’s at this tender point of temptation the enemy of your soul waits in the wings, ready to encourage you to proceed and not hold back. With very persuasive suggestions he hopes to convince you, you’ve taken it long enough. You’ve graciously and unselfishly held back and gone the second (and third and fourth and fifth . . .) mile until you’ve about run out of miles and patience. And so, “Why not get back?” he whispers.”³
- It has been said, “Holding on to a grudge, holding on to anger, holding on to resentment, and holding on to vengeance is like _____ hoping the other person _____.”
- + *Luke 23:34*, Jesus said from the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing” (NLT).
- You have a choice; you can get _____ or stay _____; you can _____ or stay _____; you can give people _____ or hold on to a _____.
- + *John 14:27*, Jesus says to us, “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give” (NLT).

A Lord Supper Reminder

- + *1 Corinthians 11:27-30*, “For this reason, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in the wrong spirit will be guilty of dishonoring the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸So let each individual first evaluate his own attitude and only then eat the bread and drink the cup. ²⁹For continually eating and drinking with a wrong spirit (e.g., irreverently) will bring judgment upon yourself by not respectfully honoring the Lord’s crucified body. ³⁰This insensitivity is why many of you are weak, chronically ill, and some even dying or have died” (PAR).

² Karen H. Jobes, *The NIV Application Commentary: Esther*, p. 196

³ Charles R. Swindoll, *Great Lives Series*, “Esther,” Kindle Edition, p. 183.