

MENTOR



WEEK 7

FOR LIFE

WHAT A COINCIDENCE

Throughout our study, we've stated that God's name may be absent, but his power and presence are on full display. Today's passage illustrates that idea clearly—there are just too many “just so happens” moments for them to be a coincidence.

While we could create a long list of “coincidences” within the entire book of *Esther*, consider just the 8 occurring in our passage today: #1–The king can't sleep. #2–Servant chose to read that particular page. #3–Remembering that Mordecai saved the king. #4–Mordecai's loyalty unrewarded. #5–Next morning, Haman appears. #6–The king initially omits “Mordecai” to Haman. #7–Haman advises the king regarding honoring the unknown servant. #8–the king makes Haman honor Mordecai.

ESTHER 6:1–10

¹ On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. ² And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. ³ And the king said, “What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” The king's young men who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.” ⁴ And the king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him. ⁵ And the king's young men told him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.” ⁶ So Haman came in, and the king said to him, “What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?” And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?” ⁷ And Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king delights to honor, ⁸ let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. ⁹ And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.’” ¹⁰ Then the king said to Haman, “Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"I'm no longer a slave to fear...You unravel me, with a melody, and you surround me with a song. Of deliverance, from my enemies, until all my fears are gone."

Mordecai's day began with his enemy going to ask for his execution. Before the day ended, he was the most celebrated man in the empire. Maybe your day isn't going so great. Scan the QR code to worship and be reminded that we serve a God who is able to deliver.



DISCUSSION

What's the craziest coincidence that you've experienced?

1. Describe the process of the king's discovery. (1-3)
2. What did the king ask? Who did Haman think the king had in mind? (6)
3. What did the king order Haman to do? (10)

4. How do you think this parade changed the public perception of...
 - Mordecai?
 - Haman?

5. How might the delayed recognition of Mordecai's loyalty encourage you re: God's timing in your own life?

Maybe you feel like you've been obedient, you've been loyal, you've worked hard, but nobody's noticed. Don't let bitterness creep in. If you need someone to talk to, your Coach is here.

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

MENTOR



FOR LIFE

STUDY NOTES

NAMELESS

Quick poll, does anyone know the name Walter Camp off the top of your head?

You may not know the name, but you know the effect of his life. Walter Camp is known as the “Father of American Football” for his numerous inventions and changes he brought to the game. Back in Camp’s day, football looked a lot more like rugby until Camp created the line of scrimmage and the system of downs, among other inventions. Having basically invented American football, every year his name is mentioned to cheering crowds as the *Walter Camp Player of the Year* award is handed to the NCAA’s most outstanding football player.

Here’s the point, people don’t need to know your name for your life to have an effect. The people that know will care, but the people that don’t can still see the impact of a life well lived. Your goal in life shouldn’t be to have a name that gets remembered here on earth. Your goal should be that the effect of your life causes celebration in heaven (Luke 15).

Our passage today shows the elevation of an unimportant man. A man whose life could have just as easily been forgotten as the myriads of others. Instead, Mordecai’s name has been recorded in God’s eternal Word because of his faithfulness just as it was recorded in the Persian chronicles. Coincidentally, God recalled Mordecai’s name at *just* the right time in *just* the right way to *just* the right person so that it *just so happens* that he might be highly honored by the one who despised him most.

MENTEES MUST TRUST GOD TO DO HIS WORK

Last Week, we saw Haman and friends cooking up a plot to kill Mordecai. It just so happens that *on that* very same *night the king could not sleep*. The king requested a bedtime story from *the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles*. The servant reading to the king started reading of the story of *Mordecai* saving the king from the *two who guarded the threshold, and who sought to lay hands on the king*.

The king asked, *“What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?”* The king’s man reported, *“Nothing has been done for him.”* Seeking assistance in the matter *the king said, “Who is in the court?”* It just so happened that *Haman had just entered the outer court of the king’s palace*.

Ironically, Haman had come to *speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him*. Instead, *Haman came in, and the king said to him, “What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?”* Haman assumed the king meant him so he embellished, *“For the man whom the king delights to honor...”* Haman might have even given a wink believing that he was prescribing his own celebration with *royal robes and the king’s horse*. He didn’t stop there, he asked for a parade where *the king’s most noble officials... lead this man of honor on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.’”*

Can you imagine the sound of Haman’s jaw dropping when the king *said to Haman, “Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king’s gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned.”* Back in Zero Week we read in Psalm 2, *“He who sits in the heavens laughs.”* Haman’s humiliation we may regard as proof that God, in fact, has a sense of humor.

GOD’S WORK CAN HUMBLE THE PROUD

A few weeks back, Mordecai obeyed the Lord refusing to sacrifice his integrity, even as many encouraged him to do so. He garnered the hatred of the second most powerful man in the world. His actions led to an edict for the extinction of his people. Now, he was being paraded around by the man he defied. The man who set the order in motion for the genocide of the Jews. And, the very same man who, moments before, went to the king to have him publicly executed.

Consider, what would have happened if Mordecai had received the king’s favor the same day he informed on the spies. Do you think Mordecai ever had a moment of bitterness at the lack of recognition?

There’s probably a lesson here on God’s timing in our own lives. It seems likely that Mordecai would have waited patiently for this day had he known that this celebration was coming. In the same way, our patience is often tested when the Lord answers our prayer, “Wait.” Yet, we have no idea what the Lord has in store.

Romans 8:18 says, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”* Mordecai witnessed that truth within a matter of months—and the best was yet to come. Our recognition may take longer, but that day is coming for us too.