

FRIDAY, April 16, 2010:

Esther 9:10,15,16 "...but they did not lay a hand on the plunder."

Three times it is recorded in chapter 9 that the Jews did not lay hands on the plunder. If you take the time to read chapter 9 you will read of a very violent series of events.

The lesson that I want to press upon us today is that:

- *Sometimes we are called upon to take drastic action; however, when we do let's do so with cleans hands.*

On this Friday, I may have a manager or business owner that is going to have to let an employee go today. Perhaps someone is dealing with a tough call between a friend or family member. Leadership requires tough calls; but whatever you do, take the high road. Go ahead, pull the trigger, make the decision but do it for the right reasons. Do the right thing – not for personal gain – but because God reigns...for in the end, He will be the final judge on our decisions and I want our decisions to reflect a proper balance between law and grace and justice and mercy.

SCRIPTURE: Zechariah 7:9

"The ultimate measure of leaders' success is not that they were always successful but that they made a difference in the lives of the people they led." _Henry & Richard Blackaby, Spiritual Leadership, p. 276

SATURDAY, April 17, 2010:

Esther 10:1-3 *"King Ahasuerus imposed tribute...all the acts of his power and his might. Mordecai was great...seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen."*

How will you be remembered? How will the last chapter of your life be recorded? The last chapter of Esther gives you the two main choices. A man or a woman of the world sees greatness in terms of money, power and might; the man or woman of God sees greatness in terms of seeking the good of others and being a peacemaker. There is a gulf as vast as the difference between Heaven and Hell between the two.

There is nothing wrong with wealth, power and might; but what matters to God is how you use them.

Again, if today was the last chapter of your life, how would you be remembered? If your answer doesn't satisfy you; I pray that you will have the time to change it.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 31:12

"You can't change where you started, but you can change the direction you are going."
_Napoleon Hill



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of April 11, 2010

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

What I am thankful for this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, April 12, 2010:

Esther 5:1 *“Esther put on her royal robes...”*

Dress for the job! That is what Esther teaches us today. Her life was on the line. The king could have her killed on the day that this verse refers to. So what did Esther do? She put her best foot forward, she put her royal robes on. It was her way of saying, “You may kill me, but you will do so knowing you killed a queen.”

I remember years ago when I first started playing golf. The man who taught me the most about the game told me to always dress sharply when I played; he said, “You’ll play better if you dress better.” I’ve never forgotten that and I have found it to be true; not only in golf but in life.

Please understand I am not making a fashion statement here. Fashion standards come and go; but I have learned over the years that people dress the way they see themselves. Today I’m suggesting that you raise the price on your head. You may be going through a tough time right now and you feel overwhelmed, discouraged and despondent. Get up! Dress up! And get going! If you go down, do so like Esther...giving your all and looking your best. I’ve discovered that when you do that, somehow things have a way of working for the better.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 27:31

“Fashion can be bought. Style one must possess.” _Edna W. Chase

TUESDAY, April 13, 2010:

Esther 6:1 *“That night the king could not sleep.”*

Never underestimate the importance of not being able to sleep. The fact that the king could not sleep led to the salvation of the Jewish nation. God used that event to orchestrate a series of events that eventually lead to the destruction of their greatest enemies and the promotion of the leading citizen.

I’ve learned over the years that when I am awakened in the middle of the night not to fluff it off as “too much pizza” or some other excuse, but to examine my heart and to listen for that still small voice of God.

Often an early morning wakeup is God’s gentle voice calling you to come be with Him.

Use those early morning hours to walk through your home and speak blessing over your home. If you have little ones at home, slip into their rooms, join with their guardian angels, and watch over them for a while. Go to your “secret place,” get on your knees and open your Bible and wait. You’ll be surprised what God will have to say.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:35

“People who say they sleep like a baby usually don’t have one.”

_Leo J. Burke



WEDNESDAY, April 14, 2010:

Esther 7:9-10 *“Then the king said, ‘Hang him on it!’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.”*

Let God balance the books. Every time you try to take justice into your own hands, it backfires. So much energy is wasted by so many in their efforts to “get even” or to “make somebody pay.”

The Bible teaches that it is far better to simply leave that stuff in the hands of God. As much as we’d like to be, we are just not qualified to be the judge. We don’t know the whole story. We can’t see the long-range outcome of any decision we make. But God does and He is best qualified to work things out.

In the meantime, focus your strength and energy on that which is good and productive and on those that love you. You’ll be better for it.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:8

“Unforgiveness does a great deal more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than the object on which it is poured.” _S.I. McMillen

THURSDAY, April 15, 2010:

Esther 8:6 *“For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?”*

Chapter 8 of the book of Esther is about moving beyond your own skin and kin. In chapter 7, we discover how Esther and her uncle are saved from the horrible plots of Haman; but that was only a part of the mission. Esther was not put in the position she was in just to benefit her own self and family; she was put there to save a nation!

What about you? Are you so focused on benefitting your own skin and kin that you have forgotten that God has put you where you are for a greater reason?

Let’s all take a little time today (tax day of all days!) to reexamine the contribution we should be making to our nation and to the world...beginning right where we live, work and play.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:21

“It is well to remember that the entire population of the universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others.”

_Andrew J. Holmes

