

MORDECAI'S CHARGE

Esther 4.7-9: Mordecai's charges Esther with a task toward victory

Theme: Spiritual victory begins with submitting to and obeying the Scriptural charge to rescue the perishing!

This morning we are going to look at Mordecai's communication with Esther through Hatach.

- Remember our personal pictures and types and we continue with this chapter...
- Ahasuerus, the king in charge of the decisions in the kingdom, is a picture of your soul (you, inside).
- Haman is a picture of the flesh, the old man that still lives in Shushan the Palace (your body).
- Esther (your new regenerated spirit) replaced Vashti (your old, rebellious human spirit): conversion.
- Esther comes into your life with a “close relative”: Mordecai (a picture of the Holy Spirit).
- And Hatach, who shows up in chapter 4, is a picture of the Word of God (his name means “truth”).

Review of the chronology of events:

- (Est 1-2) Ahasuerus makes a *good* decision: He “repents” of Vashti and “receives” God's provision in Esther. This is a picture of the conversion of a lost man.
- (Est 3) The new convert is led astray by the enemy: Haman (a picture of following the flesh).
- (Est 4.1-2) This decision to follow the flesh (Haman) *grieves* the Spirit (Mordecai).
- (Est 4.3) It also affects the testimony of God's people in the kingdom (the “points of light” to the Gentiles “go out” when Haman's decree of “sin and death” is revealed: Who wants to be a Jew now? No one!).
- (Est 4.4) Esther attempts to “cover up” the problem with a superficial solution... that doesn't work.
- (Est 4.5-6) So, she make a good decision and sends Hatach (whose name means “truth”) to establish communication with Mordecai and get to the root of the problem.

And that's where we pick it up this morning: Mordecai is going to communicate with Esther through Hatach.

- And in this brief communication, we are going to see another key step toward spiritual victory.
- We'll see a glimpse of the “contamination of the spirit” in Esther...
- But, overall, we are going to see just how the Spirit will lead us toward victory over our enemies.

I. (v7-8a) Mordecai's Reply: He shows Esther the problem.

A. Esther is ignorant of Haman's decree and Mordecai desires to inform her of the details.

1. Esther has no idea of what is going on, but Mordecai has a shocking amount of detail.
 - a) In our passage we see that Mordecai knows just about everything that went on between Ahasuerus and Mordecai.
 - b) He even knows about the sum of the money that Haman promised to pay, a “deal” that was made between the king and Haman in private (Est 3.9).
 - c) And we see in this passage that Mordecai wants Esther to know *everything* about this decree.
2. Mordecai is a picture of the Holy Spirit:
 - a) The Holy Spirit is God, and therefore He is Omniscient (He knows *everything*, even those things done in secret).
 - b) And we should also understand that there are certain things that the Holy Spirit desires to tell us. He wants us to know *everything* about certain things.
 - c) And that would lead us to a small “rabbit trail” to consider in this context...

B. (John 14.26) The Spirit will teach you “all things” that the Lord wants to communicate to you.

1. He will not teach you “all things” (every little detail of life, love, and happiness).
2. There are many things that God desires for you to know, and He wants you to know them in detail.
 - a) To this end, He has given you His revealed Word in the words of truth: Scripture.
 - b) Many refer to this as “God's revealed will” for mankind. You can read about “God's will for your life” in the Bible, and you can read about His will in great detail.
3. However, there are many more things in life that God will probably “remain silent” on.
 - a) We could call this the “plan of God” for your life—the details of your life's decisions.
 - b) What kind of car should you buy? Where should you live? Should you buy a house or rent? What kind of job should you get? Whom should you marry? What should you name your pet fish? Should you go to this church... that church... or another church...?
 - c) These are things that occupy a lot of our prayer time because they are the details of our lives that are very important to us. Therefore, it's also very important to understand that God will probably not give you detailed instruction and about what exactly you are to do.
 - (1) He has given you His Word (the Bible) and in it you will find precepts, prohibitions, principles, and patterns you can follow.
 - (a) Example: The Bible says you are not to marry a lost person (that slims down the playing field a little bit). That's a “prohibition.”
 - (b) Example: The Bible contains principles that would discourage owning a casino.
 - (c) But the Bible is not going to tell you: “*Marry big Bertha and be a fireman.*” And you should not expect the Holy Spirit to do so! That's not how the Bible says God works in our lives today—how God “speaks” to us today.
 - (2) (Luke 19.11-27) The Parable of the Ten Pounds is how God works in our lives today.
 - (a) (v13) God has given us all the same resources: One pound for each of the ten servants.
 - (b) (v13b) And He expects each of us to use those resources until He comes back for us.
 - (c) (v15) Until the Lord comes back to judge you for what you have done with what He gave you, you get to choose what you do.
 - i) The Bible (the words of the Lord), obviously, serves as a guide.
 - ii) Life circumstances will also serve as a guide.
 - I knew God did not want me in Colombia as a missionary. How? We could not get a visa and the government told us to leave! Easy!
 - I knew God wanted us to move back to the Kansas City area. How? It was the only place I had family that would take me in when KCBT cut our support (I had nowhere else to go!). Again: Easy!
 - iii) But, there are times when it's not that easy: God did not “tell me” to marry Sue.
 - The Bible served as a guide in giving me a description of a godly woman.
 - But there was no voice from heaven, no vision, no dream.
 - Ultimately, why did I marry her? Because I wanted to. It was my choice.
 - (d) So, don't get all hung up and stagnated because God is not “telling you” exactly what to do in every detail of your life!
 - i) Follow the Bible. Pay attention to circumstances. And do what you want to do!
 - ii) Based on what you know from Scripture, taking into account your life's circumstances, choose what you want to do with what the Lord gave you!

- d) Do not think that this is “Biblical Deism.”
- (1) *Deism* teaches that God just “wound up” the universe, set it in motion, and then left.
 - (2) Deism teaches that God is *transcendent* (beyond, outside creation), but it fails in that it does not teach (as does the Bible) that God is *immanent* (He is personally involved in every area of your life).
 - (a) God is transcendent: Isaiah 55.8-9.
 - (b) God is immanent: Matthew 10.29-31 (He is involved in even the most insignificant details of your life: the number of hairs on your head).
 - (3) We are not talking about “Deism.” We are talking about how God has chosen to lead us and guide us in our daily affairs today, during the Church Age.
 - (a) He guides us, principally, through the *Scripture*.
 - i) It's precepts tell us what to do.
 - ii) It's prohibitions tell us what not to do.
 - iii) It's principles give us guidelines for decisions we have to make where there are not specific precepts or prohibitions.
 - iv) It's patterns shows us examples of how to put into practice the precepts and prohibitions, and live according to the principles.
 - (b) And then, at times, God will use the *circumstances* of life to “open doors” or “close doors.”
 - (c) But we should *never* think that God has some predetermined plan for our lives, and if we miss some aspect of that plan, then we are derailed forever.
 - i) He has given us the ability and the responsibility as stewards to *choose*.
 - ii) So, know your Bible, pay attention to your life's circumstances, and choose wisely.
 - iii) And if you mess up... that's okay, too!
 - Romans 8.28 says that even our bad decisions can be used by God for our good and His glory.
 - We just need to love God (manifested in keeping His commandments; John 14.15, 21, 23-24) and follow the His call in our lives according to His purpose.
 - (4) I would strongly suggest you listen to Phil Johnson's sermon on “Providence” from the Strange Fire conference held this last year (2013). **Title:** “Providence Is Remarkable”

C. [Summary: v7-8a] Mordecai's Reply: He shows Esther the problem... and he does so *in detail*.

1. And when it comes to our carnality (decisions to follow the flesh), the Holy Spirit will do the same.
2. Just like Mordecai communicated *in detail* about Ahasuerus's decision to put Haman in charge, and Haman's decree of “sin and death,” the Holy Spirit will communicate with us *in detail* about our bad decisions to follow the desires of our flesh.
 - a) If you have some nagging “gut feeling” that something is wrong, get in the Bible! Seek the Holy Spirit's communication through the “word of truth” (Hatach), and pray.
 - b) If there is something wrong (a decision to follow the flesh, sin, etc.), the Spirit will declare that to you in great detail (with specificity), and He will do that through “Hatach” (truth).
 - c) It's the devil that gives us that general “feeling” of guilt without a specific knowledge of what exactly is wrong. And we should never let that side-line us.
 - d) If you got the “feeling,” get in the Bible! Pray! Seek the Holy Spirit's communication. And if you still get nothing, chalk up the “feeling” to the enemy and get on with life and ministry.

II. (v8b) **Mordecai's Charge: He shows Esther the solution**

- After Mordecai informs Esther of the problem (Haman's decree), he tells her what to do about it...

A. **Mordecai gives Hatach three “to's...”:**

1. “...*to shew*...”: Mordecai sends a copy of the decree with Hatach to show it to Esther so she understands the *seriousness* of this situation. It is a decree of *death* for thousands!
2. “...*to declare*...”: Mordecai sends Hatach to declare the same thing he is to show her. Esther needs to know everything that has transpired between Ahasuerus and Haman (the king's decision started this and so, ultimately, the king is the one that can fix it).
3. “...*to charge*...”: Mordecai sends a “charge” to Esther through Hatach (the truth). The solution to the problem of Haman begins with a *task* (a *mission*) given to Esther by Mordecai through Hatach.

B. **The Holy Spirit will communicate through the Truth to us in the very same way...**

1. “...*to shew*...”: The Holy Spirit will use the Bible to show us the *seriousness* of the situation in the kingdom (people all around us are dying *eternally* because of Haman's decree of sin and death!).
2. “...*to declare*...”: The Holy Spirit, through the Bible (if we will spend time in it, *paying attention* to its words), will declare unto us in great detail what has transpired between us (the soul) and our old man (bad decisions to follow the flesh).
3. “...*to charge*...”: The Holy Spirit will also, through the Bible, charge us with a *task* (a *mission*) that is another essential step toward true spiritual victory.

C. **The “charge” is not a suggestion. The “charge” is a requirement—an order.**

1. Mordecai is not asking Esther for a favor. Mordecai is “charging” her to *do* something specific.
2. The Holy Spirit has not asked us to do Him a favor... He has *charged* us with a *responsibility*.
 - a) A lot of Christians say they want spiritual victory... A lot of Christians say they want to live the “abundant” life that Christ promised.
 - b) But, most Christians today think the “Great Commission” is a topic only for a missions conference. That's something those “missionaries” do... not us.
 - c) (2Cor 5.18-19) Through Hatach (the words of truth; Scripture), the Holy Spirit has *charged* us with a task—a mission. It's a “rescue mission”: Seek and save the lost through evangelism!
 - (1) This is not an option. This is not a “favor” God is asking us to do for Him if we have time.
 - (2) This a charge, a requirement, an order. It is a task and a mission that God has entrusted to us, and He expects all of us to do what He has charged us to do.

D. **The “charge” is an essential step toward victory.**

1. (v14) If Esther wants to participate in the victory God has for His people, she *has* to follow Mordecai and be faithful to his charge (she has to complete the task, fulfill the mission).
 - And the same is true for us: There is *no* spiritual victory without being faithful in our charge.
2. And here we see another aspect of the “filthiness of the spirit” that hinders us:
 - a) This “charge” has nothing to do with what Esther wants or feels. This charge comes directly to her as a command from Mordecai through Hatach.
 - b) (v10-12) Esther does not want to do it.
 - (1) She is afraid. She is intimidated. She is uncomfortable with being “intentional” in the task of interceding and laboring to save the people condemned to death by Haman.
 - (2) She doesn't want the responsibility. She doesn't want the risk. She doesn't want the sacrifice. She would prefer that someone else do it.
 - (3) But, does what *she* wants have *anything* to do with what Mordecai said? No.

- c) (2Tim 1.7-8) Fear and shame (cowardice) is not of God. It's filthiness in us. And we should recognize it for what it is, and repent to cleanse ourselves of this filthiness of the spirit.
 - d) (Acts 4.31; Eph 6.18-20) We ought to speak boldly, and we will speak boldly when we submit to the Holy Spirit (when we are "filled" with the Holy Spirit, controlled/led by Him).
3. You will never get to the spiritual victory of Esther 10 if you do not submit to and obey the charge given in Esther 4.8.
- a) Mordecai has shown Esther the problem (Ahasuerus's decision and Haman's decree), and he has charged her with the solution. The charge is an essential step toward victory.
 - b) There is one more thing to notice in our passage before we finish...

III. (v9) **Mordecai's Words: He speaks to Esther through the Words of "Truth"**

- A. Hatach communicates all the words of Mordecai to Esther. Truth comes to her with words, Mordecai's words.
- B. (Prov 2.1-5, 9) If you do not **have** the words of God (the words of truth)... if you do not **read** those words of truth... or if you do not **believe** (submit to and obey) those words of truth... you will never live in spiritual victory because you will **never** understand God's path to victory.
 - 1. Mordecai sent his words to Esther through Hatach.
 - 2. God sends His words to us through truth, and "thy word is truth" (Scripture; John 17.17).
- C. (Ps 12.5-7) God promised to preserve His words forever. Where can you find them? They are necessary for your life and for your "success" in life (doing the will of God).
 - 1. Remember: All Bibles are not the same. The words are different.
 - 2. The King James Bible is the last English Bible to be translated from the *Textus Receptus* (the uncorrupted line of texts and manuscripts). Every other English Bible comes from texts corrupted in Alexandria, Egypt, and by the Roman Catholic Church.
 - 3. You need the words of God if you want to fulfill the mission of God in this life.

Conclusion:

Mordecai sends Hatach with the words of his message for Esther: *He charges her with a mission!*

- Through Hatach (truth), Mordecai informs Esther of the problem, and the seriousness of the problem.
- And then he gives her the solution: A charge (responsibility, order, duty; task, mission).
- Her participation in the victory God has for His people depends entirely on completing that charge!

God has sent to us His words of truth in the Bible: *And in the Bible, He has charged us with a mission!*

- The Bible informs us of the seriousness of the problem (people are dying and going to hell).
- And the Bible informs us of the solution: A charge (the Great Commission), our duty and task.
- If we want to experience the spiritual victory God has for His people, we **must** rid ourselves of the filthiness of the flesh (our cowardice: fear and shame), and boldly fulfill the charge given to us!

***Get a Bible (a real Bible).
Read it daily, prayerfully seeking communication with God.
And then do what it says.***