

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, May 26th "Patience, Pride & Punishment"

Matthew 5:13-16 – NIV

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Esther 7 – NIV

So the king and Haman went to Queen Esther's banquet, ² and as they were drinking wine on the second day, the king again asked, "Queen Esther, what is your petition? It will be given you. What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request. ⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king.[a]"

⁵ King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is he—the man who has dared to do such a thing?"

⁶ Esther said, "An adversary and enemy! This vile Haman!"

Then Haman was terrified before the king and queen. ⁷ The king got up in a rage, left his wine and went out into the palace garden. But Haman, realizing that the king had already decided his fate, stayed behind to beg Queen Esther for his life.

⁸ Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining.

The king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?"

As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. ⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, "A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits[b] stands by Haman's house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king."

The king said, "Impale him on it!" ¹⁰ So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

Takeaway: We can remain faithful in a chaotic world by being patient.

Questions:

1. Share about a time when you've been impatient. What was the consequence of your impatience? What can we learn from Esther's patience?
2. In Galatians 6:7-10, Paul writes that we shouldn't grow weary of doing good and that we "reap what we sow."
 - a. Where do we see "reaping" and "sowing" in the story of Esther?
 - b. How has "reaping" and "sowing" play out in your life or in the lives of those around you?
3. Re-read Esther 7:4. What is the significance of the difference between being sold into slavery instead of destroyed or killed? How might that change King Xerxes's response? How might it have changed Mordecai's or Esther's?
4. What are some examples of pride blinding leaders in our world today?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20240526.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/P36V-RsWcqQ>