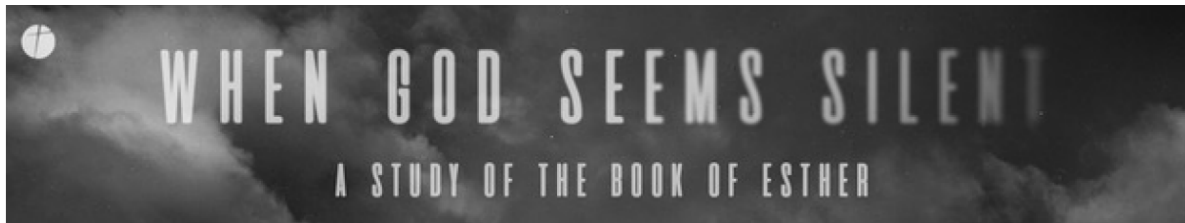


May 31st, 2026



Esther: When God Seems Silent - Week 8  
**“Unfinished Business”**

**Esther 9:1-5 NIV**

*“On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. <sup>2</sup> The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. <sup>3</sup> And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king’s administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them. <sup>4</sup> Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.” <sup>5</sup> The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them.*

**Esther 9:10 NIV**

*“...the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.”*

**Esther 9:15-17 NIV**

*“The Jews in Susa came together on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they put to death in Susa three hundred men, but they did not lay their hands on the plunder.”*

*<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder. <sup>17</sup> This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy.*

**Esther 9:20-22 NIV**

*“Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, <sup>21</sup> to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar <sup>22</sup> as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.”*

**Esther 9:26-28 NIV**

*(Therefore these days were called Purim, from the word pur.) Because of everything written in this letter and because of what they had seen and what had happened to them, <sup>27</sup> the Jews took it on themselves to establish the custom that they and their descendants and all who join them should without fail observe these two days every year, in the way prescribed and at the time*

appointed. <sup>28</sup> These days should be remembered and observed in every generation by every family, and in every province and in every city. And these days of Purim should never fail to be celebrated by the Jews—nor should the memory of these days die out among their descendants.

### **Esther 10:3**

*Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.*

## Taking Care of Unfinished Business Spiritually

- I. Stay in fighting shape.
  - We are strengthened for the fight when we regularly gather with the people of God. (9:2)
  - A healthy dose of the fear of God keeps us in fighting shape. (9:3)
    - **Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 25:14, Proverbs 14:26, Psalm 34:7, Psalm 128:1**
    - Godly fear produces wisdom & intimacy with God.
    - Two ways to grow in a holy fear of God:
      - Think about what He's saved me for.
      - Think about what He's saved me from.
- II. You can't afford to forget. (9:28)
  - Remembering who God is & what He has done has always positioned God's people best for what is to come.
  - Key to the passage: Verses 10, 15, 16 repeat the phrase - "*But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.*"
  - When we forget God, we will repeat past sins. Remembering God will help us break the cycle of sin.
  - Don't be content to allow unfinished business to linger in your life.