### Esther

## Chapter 5

1Well on the 3rd day, Esther dressed in her royal clothes, then she went and stood in the palace courtyard, inside the inner courtyard, which is right outside of the king’s residence.  
  
And when the king went and sat down on his royal throne (which was inside his palace but it faced the front entryway) 2and he saw Esther the queen standing in his courtyard, he was pleased.  
  
So he stretched out the gold scepter towards her that he held in his hand, and Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.  
  
3Then the king asked:  
  
 ‘What do you want Esther… What’s your request?  
  
 ‘Ask for half of my kingdom and it’s yours.’  
  
4And Esther said:  
  
 ‘This is a special day for me... So if it seems good to the king, may both the king and HaMan attend a banquet that I will hold for them today!’  
  
5So the king said to HaMan:  
  
 ‘Hurry, let’s go and do what Esther has asked!’  
  
And they both went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.  
  
6Well, when they arrived, the king said to Esther:  
  
 ‘Tell me what it is that’s so important to you, Queen Esther, and I’ll do whatever is worthwhile.’  
  
7Then she said:  
  
 ‘My only request and petition is this:  
  
 8‘If I’ve found the favor of the king, may you and HaMan come again tomorrow for [another] banquet that I’ll hold for you, the same as today.’  
  
9Well after HaMan left the king that day, he was very cheerful and happy. But when he noticed the Judean MordecAi standing in the courtyard, he was furious.  
  
10Then when he got home, he called his wife ZoSara and his friends, 11and he showed them all the wealth he’d gained. He also told them of the glory that the king had vested upon him, and of how the king had appointed him to be the most important and how he had given him the lead position in his kingdom.  
  
12Then HaMan said:  
  
 ‘Today, the queen didn’t invite anyone to a banquet that she held other than just me and the king, and she has invited me again tomorrow!  
  
 13‘However, the thing that really bothered me was seeing that Jew – MordecAi – standing there in the courtyard!’  
  
14Then his wife ZoSara said to him and his friends:  
  
 ‘You should cut down a very tall tree, then at dawn tomorrow morning, you should go and speak to the king about hanging MordecAi on it, so that when you attend the banquet with the king, you can do it joyfully!’  
  
Well, because this seemed to be a good idea, HaMan went and prepared the tree.