

...then the Fall

Esther 6

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther+6&version=NIVh>

“But Haman rushed home, with his head covered in grief, and told Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, ‘Since Mordecai, before whom your downfall has started, is of Jewish origin, you cannot stand against him—you will surely come to ruin!’” (vs. 12b-13)

Haman’s pride has caused him some trouble and grief. And now his wife enters the story ever so briefly. Many women in the Bible remain unnamed. For example, we know that the apostle Peter had a wife because Jesus heals his mother-in-law but Peter’s wife is never mentioned let alone named. The woman Jesus encounters at Jacob’s well is known as the woman at the well because scripture does not name her. Yet, for Haman’s wife, we have a name-Zeresh, which means “gold.” And what a treasure she is to her husband. She is a wife who is there to hear him out in his misery and she is also a woman unafraid to speak the truth even though it is a hard truth to speak and to hear. She does not hesitate to tell her husband that Mordecai is a man of God and therefore Haman cannot stand against him.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be trusted advisors for our spouses and for one another. Life is hard. Christ-living is challenging. There are days when all goes smoothly and it’s easy to stay on the narrow path of righteousness (Matt 7:14). Other days, we encounter trying personalities, we battle our own weakness and fatigue, and we run with all our might away from the narrow path. In all times, we need to uphold and encourage one another. We need folks in our lives who are trusted advisors. Who will tell us a hard truth and point us in the direction of righteousness. AND we need to serve as trusted advisors who will share the truth (no matter how hard) with love. When we are truth tellers, we too are treasures, treasures for the kingdom of God and treasurers to one another. Look for opportunities to be a treasure and to thank the Zereshes in your life!