

## Esther 6:2-3

*And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."*

In today's verse, Mordecai found out back in chapter 2 that two of the king's servants (**Bigthana and Teresh**) had plotted to kill the king, so Mordecai let others know because he wanted to protect the king.

† **Esther 2:21-23** *In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name. And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.*

Now here in chapter 6, one night the king could not sleep, so what better thing to do than have someone read to you about the things that have happened in the kingdom (A royal bedtime story so to speak). And as the king was being read to, he found out about how these two men who were going to try and kill him and how Mordecai had protected the king. So, the king's obvious response was: *"What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?"* Good question, because the king wanted to make sure that such loyalty was rewarded.

But when you read about this, did you notice it never says that Mordecai did it thinking that he would receive any recognition, or reward or anything else. There is no indication that Mordecai was complaining because he did this and that no one noticed it. He did it for the protection of the king as well as Queen Esther's (Mordecai's niece) protection. But when I read this, I think about Jesus' teaching when He said:

† **Matthew 6:3-4** *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

We read of "**charitable deed**" and our mind usually goes right to giving money or food for the needy or poor. Which is partially true, but it can also mean doing something for someone else. Like, maybe your neighbor has been sick, and while they are at the doctor's, you mow their lawn for them, and when they get home, they have no idea who did it, because you are not bragging about it, you simply want them to know that God is watching over them and that there are those who care about them.

So Mordecai did this, but he never went to the king and said, “Hey King, I did this and that for you. Now what are you going to reward me with for doing it?” No, because Mordecai was not looking for anything other than God to be recognized as being in control and watching over someone else’s life. So Mordecai did what Jesus taught, which was to, “***do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret***” and in response, God did the second half of Jesus’ teaching for Mordecai, “***your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly***”

During the holidays, how many are doing for others and telling others what they have done? How many are posting on Social Media the things they are doing and even include pictures of themselves doing it? Jesus has a word for those who do such things, which is:

† ***Matthew 6:2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.***

Because when you do these things and want others to know about it, you are not doing it out of love for that person or for the Lord, you are doing it because you love yourself more and want others to love you because of what you did.

† ***Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.***

† ***Matthew 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

† ***1 Timothy 5:25 (NLT2) In the same way, the good deeds of some people are obvious. And the good deeds done in secret will someday come to light.***