

Hoist on His Own Petard

Esther 7

by Don Falkos

copyright 2018 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

King Xerxes and his highest official Haman went to the banquet specially prepared for them by Queen Esther. While they were drinking, the king once again said to Esther, "Tell me what you want. Whatever it is, I'll give it to you."

Esther replied, "If I have pleased you in any way, and if it would please you to do so, spare my life. And spare the lives of my people. I am a Jew. My people and I have been sold to those who would annihilate us. If we had just been sold into slavery, I could have accepted that and wouldn't have disturbed you with my request."

"Wait a minute. Who has dared to do such a thing?"

"Our adversary, our enemy is this vile Haman."

Haman's eyes opened wide in panic, and the blood drained from his face. Xerxes leapt to his feet in a rage as Haman cowered in fear. The king stormed out into the garden trying to regain his composure. Haman pleaded with Esther for his life.

Just as the king stepped back in from the garden, Haman, in a desperate act of supplication, threw himself down on the couch where the queen was reclining. Xerxes shouted, "Will you even molest the queen right here in my palace, before my very eyes?" The king's attendants subdued Haman and covered his face, signaling his doom.

One of the king's men said, "Haman has set up a seventy-five foot tall stake next to his house. He intended to use it to impale Mordecai, the man who saved the king from assassination."

Xerxes ordered, "Impale Haman on it!"

So Haman was impaled on the stake he had set up for Mordecai.