A Day to Remember Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Esther.
- B. A woman is a marvelous relationship between mysticism and practicality.
- C. Esther is designed for the need to remember.

II. Four things to remember.

A. The fruits of victory.

1. This was a day of feasting and gladness, rest, showing generosity etc. to mark the results of the victory.

- 2. This is the picture of the fruit of the Spirit.
- 3. Haman is a contrary picture of the flesh.

4. The fruit of the Spirit—a peaceful, joyful life—does not mean that there will be a change of circumstance because these things do not come from circumstances.

- 5. Inner relief comes from Jesus in us.
- B. The elements of victory—how it happened.
 - 1. Occasionally, a person falls into victory out of desperation.
 - 2. Steps to victory.
 - a. Identifying "Haman"—exposing the enemy within.
 - b. Knowing the law of the Spirit of life sets us free.
 - c. Hanging "Haman"—the old life—on the gallows.
- C. The duration of victory.
 - 1. The point of the Feast of Purim is to walk in victory.
 - 2. The duration is ever lasting.
 - 3. It is a continual process.
- D. The secret of victory.

1. The secret to power and peace in the kingdom is yielding to God.

2. Hard circumstances produce good character in the Christian's life. (Romans 8:28)

3. The secret comes from a human living in the adequate resources of God.

Application questions:

1. How does "Haman" contrast to the fruit of the Spirit?

2. How can we find victory over sin? How does the response to Haman parallel this?

3. Why is yielding and dependence so important in victory? Why not depend on one's own resources? Explain.
