



"Getting Hung Up On Self" (Esther 5-7)

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I. CHAPTER FIVE

vv.7-8 Why would Esther put off the request for another day?

- Some say this was the cultural way to do things, but I think she was afraid, nervous

vv.9-10a Haman's hatred of Mordecai is at its root not racial, but religious.

* John 15: 18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

vv.10b-12 Haman is filled with pride, hung up on himself.

II. LESSONS FROM CHAPTER FIVE

A. Following Through on Costly Commitments

1. Esther's Commitment To Go Before The King

* Esther did not allow her position in life to ruin her commitment to the Lord. She is not living for herself, but for her God, and her people. She puts her life on the line in an attempt to save people from certain destruction. This is what we are all called to, and it is imperative that we do not become so comfortable in life that we begin simply to live for self.

* Matthew 23: 25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

* Deut.8:11-17; Luke 12:16-21

* Luke 8: 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

* John 12: 23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

2. Mordecai's Commitment To Not Bow To Wicked Haman

* Mordecai could have saved himself a lot of heartache had he just bowed to Haman. But now, as a result of his commitment not to bow, he faces imminent death. Haman plans to have him killed before he goes to Queen Esther's banquet!

B. Trusting God in Desperate Circumstances

* God is working behind the scenes to bring about ultimate victory for the upright. It is their commitment to Him that has gotten them into these circumstances, and He will work his will in light of the struggles they now face.

III. CHAPTERS SIX AND SEVEN

6:1 This is God at work keeping the king from being able to sleep

* Daniel 2:1 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

6:22 Refer to Esther 2:21-23.

6:4 Isn't it cool to be able to see God's plan being worked out in this story? But remember, if you are Esther or Mordecai, you don't have the vantage point God has given us. He recorded their story for us to read. He inspired it in order to give us faith. But they could not read their story while it was being written, no more than we can read our story. Our story is being written right now

6:10 Don't you wish we had a snapshot of Haman's face when the king uttered this command?

6:12-13 Haman's family and friends see this as an omen predicting disaster for him.

6:14 The last thought on his mind at this point was going to Esther's banquet!

7:6a Once again, I wish I could see Haman's face!

7:8a Bad move!

7:8b Covering his face was preparation for execution

7:9-10 What an ironic ending, but what an exciting one!

IV. LESSONS FROM CHAPTERS SIX AND SEVEN

A. God Is Sovereign

B. The Ultimate Exaltation For The Humble/Faithful

C. The Ultimate Destruction For The Proud Of Heart/Wicked

* Prov.16: 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

* II Chron.26: 16 But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

* Daniel 4:30 "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"
31 The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.
32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

* Acts 12: 21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.
22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."
23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

* Psalm 73

* Psalm 31: 23 Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.
24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

* Psalm 94

* Prov.16: 5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

* Isaiah 2: 12 The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled),