

The Curse Reversed: God's Surprising Work in the Book of Esther
February 27th, 2022
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Three Ways to Test for Pride (Esther 3:1-15)

1. Test 1: Being Disregarded for Position (vv. 1-4)

2. Test 2: Being Disrespected by People (vv. 5-6, 8-11)

3. Test 3: Being Dismissive of Providence (v. 6, 12-15)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper

2. Why doesn't Mordecai bow before Haman (vv. 3-4)? What are some potential explanations for his action? Why is it significant that Mordecai is not merely defying Haman, but also the King (see 2:21-23)? Compare and contrast Vashti's refusal in chapter 1 (see 1:10-22) with Mordecai's. How are they similar? How are they different?
3. What does Haman do in response to Mordecai's refusal (vv. 5-6)? How does Haman's family history (v. 1) help us understand his decision (see Exodus 17:16; Deuteronomy 25:17-19)? Who is Mordecai related to (see 2:5)? How do these men serve as representatives in a greater, historical conflict (see 1 Samuel 15:1-35)?
4. How does Haman describe the Jews to King Ahasuerus (v. 8)? What critical detail does he leave out? What is true about his description of the Jews? What is partially true? What isn't true at all? Why does Haman describe the Jews in this matter? What is he trying to accomplish?
5. Why does Haman go through such an elaborate ritual to determine the day on which to destroy the Jews (v. 6)? Why is the day he ultimately chooses ironic (v. 13; see Exodus 12:6f)? What point is the author trying to make (see Proverbs 16:33)?

Application:

6. Jeff provided three ways to diagnose pride in our own lives. Which of these stood out to you? Why? Can you think of other manifestations of pride in this passage? How does pride manifest in your life?
7. This passage demonstrates how, *"a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor"* (Ecclesiastes 10:1). How does this passage serve as a warning to us about minimizing sins in our own lives? In what areas do you have a tendency to minimize sin/pride?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this message?