

Message #11

Esther 5:9-14

When we come to this passage before us today, we come to an amazing text of God's sovereignty. In this text it appears as though Haman is on top of the world in power and position. It appears as though he is accomplishing everything he wants and it appears as though he is about to get rid of all his enemies; but as we shall see, what appears to be and what really is are two different things.

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL, EVIL AND HATEFUL A LEADER MAY APPEAR TO BE, GOD IS STILL IN SOVEREIGN CONTROL AND IN HIS TIME AND IN HIS WAY THIS REALITY WILL BE SEEN AND THE ONE WHO IS EVIL WILL BE DESTROYED.

In these verses, Haman, God's enemy, appears to be in total control and Mordecai, God's faithful servant, appears to be in the worst possible state. However, appearance is not reality. The reality is Mordecai, who is right with God, is the one in the best state and Haman is about to be destroyed.

In this section, the writer of Esther went to great lengths to carefully describe what was taking place in the mind and life of Haman. It appears as though Haman is controlling the world, but in less than 24 hours, Haman would be hanging from a gallows, dead. Appearances aren't reality. Dr. Merrill Unger calls this section "Haman's Self Delusion" (Vol. 1, p. 87). Haman was deluded into thinking everything was going his way, when in all reality, everything was moving God's way.

ACTION #1 – Haman's emotions were positive after the banquet. **5:9a**

Haman left the first banquet put on by Esther for him and King Ahasuerus, feeling wonderful. His heart was "glad" and "pleased." Little did he realize that this emotional elation and confidence was due to the fact that Esther had masterfully concealed her real purpose for the banquet.

Emotions prove nothing. One may feel as if he is right with God and be heading toward His damnation. Haman felt like he was secure and was happy as a lark and little did he know in less than 24 hours he would be executed.

ACTION #2 – Haman's anger was stimulated by Mordecai. **5:9b**

The one "fly in the ointment" for Haman was Mordecai. Mordecai was a bitter morsel to Haman. Mordecai was a man of God who wouldn't bend or bow in spite of Haman's threats to exterminate the Jew. Mordecai wasn't intimidated by Haman's position or power; he feared God and he knew that to bow down and worship a man was a terrible act of idolatry.

Haman-types become obsessed with a craving for approval. There is a sense in which we should try to become all things to all people. There is a sense in which we should try to live peaceably with all men. But there is also the truth that those who are faithful will have their share of enemies. Those who are wise and godly keep faithful and leave the enemies to God. Those who are like Haman become consumed with the enemy.

ACTION #3 – Haman’s actions were controlled by his ego. **5:10-12**

One who is not right with God is one who is controlled by emotions and ego. One who is right with God is one who is controlled by God’s Word.

When we read in **verse 10** that “Haman controlled himself,” it does not mean he was right with God and that he wanted to live a controlled life that no longer hated Mordecai; it means his emotion of anger was temporarily abated for at least three reasons:

1) He had just come from a great banquet for only him and the king; 2) he had already issued an edict, which had been approved by the king that would ultimately exterminate Mordecai and every other Jew; 3) he wanted to go home and talk to his friends so he could further feed his ego.

We must never think that just because a man appears to be controlled that automatically means he is right with God. He may have a heart and mind as dark as hell. Immediate reactions and emotions prove nothing. Time will tell what is really going on.

The reason why he summoned these people was not for purposes of communicating information, but for the purpose of elevating his ego. A braggart usually brags about the same types of things—prosperity, position, promotions and people.

Subject #1 - Haman brags about his prosperity. **5:11a**

I find the priority of Haman revealing; his wealth is at a higher priority than his sons. His sons finished second when compared to his wealth. Just because one has lots of money doesn’t mean one is spiritually right with God.

Subject #2 - Haman brags about his posterity. **5:11b**

We know that Haman had at least ten sons, who are specifically named in this book (9:6-10).

Subject #3 - Haman brags about his promotions. **5:11c**

Haman was a proud, arrogant, evil man who was completely full of himself.

Subject #4 - Haman brags about his position. 5:12

Haman was proud of his status. He was part of the upper echelon, the elite. Haman and King Ahasuerus were political partners, drinking partners and party partners. He was proud of his position and power and he let everyone know.

The Apostle John said, “The pride of life is not from the Father, but is from the world” (I John 2:15).

ACTION #4 – Haman’s attitudes were affected by Mordecai. 5:13

Mordecai was a godly man who knew God’s Word and stood for it and just his presence affected Haman. Mordecai’s presence was a rebuke and reproach to Haman and every time he would see him, he would struggle.

Haman had everything going for him except one thing: he wasn’t right with God. People who aren’t right with God have no real satisfaction no matter who they are or what they have.

ACTION #5 – Haman’s solution is to eliminate Mordecai. 5:14

A cubit was approximately 18 inches which meant this gallows would be 75 feet high. In this case the suggestion to “hang him high” was much more than a title of a movie; it was literal reality.

Tucked away in the Word of God are some statements that never fazed Haman:

- 1) “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; assuredly, he will not be unpunished” (Prov. 16:5).
- 2) “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling” (Prov. 16:18).
- 3) “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (Prov. 26:12).

Although Haman appeared to be in charge of the whole world, the reality was God was in total control and in less than 24 hours these verses from Proverbs would be literally worked out and Haman would be hanging from his own gallows.

There are several practical lessons we learn from this passage:

- 1) Appearances aren’t necessarily reality.
- 2) Those not right with God are usually controlled by their emotions and ego.
- 3) Godless people will be angered by the very presence of godly people.
- 4) The proud will be humbled.
- 5) Even when things appear to be the worst for God’s people, the reality is God is still in sovereign control.