



Live for God, Not for Man



MEMORY VERSE: "I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant." Galations 1:10

DAY 1 ESTHER 5:1-8 — Esther's Request to the King

- 1. What did the king say when he saw Esther? vv. 1-3
- 2. What does King Xerxes do? vv. 4-5
- 3. Read verses 6-8. What do you think Esther was waiting for? What might this tell you about God behind the scenes?

DAY 2 ESTHER 5:9-14 — Haman's Plan to Kill Mordecai

- 4. Why was Haman happy and then furious? v. 9
- 5. Read verses 10-13. Why is it all worth nothing to him?
- 6. Why do you think God does not want you to keep bitterness, jealousy, anger, hatred inside?

- 7. Read verse 14. What do you think his wife and friends were thinking?
- 8. How would a godly friend influence your life? How could an ungodly friend influence you?



- 9. Read verses 1-2. Why do you think this happened this night and what does this tell you?
- 10. What does King Xerxes ask Haman and what does Haman assume? vv. 4-6
- 11. Read verses 7-9. Notice how many times Haman used the words "the king". Why do you think Haman was able to give such a specific answer?
- 12. What does the king command? v. 10

DAY 4 ESTHER 6:11-14 — Mordecai Honored

13. What words would you use to describe Haman during the parade?

What words would you use to describe Mordecai during the parade?

- 14. What did both men do after the parade?
- 15. What did Haman's wife and friends tell him?



ESTHER 5-6 — Wrap Up

16. What do you learn from Esther in this lesson?

17. What does this lesson show you about God and coincidences?

18. What does this lesson reveal to you about the destructive and distorting power of pride?

TAKE AWAY

Esther's faith and courage and Haman's pride - two lifestyles, with two perspectives on life. Are you more like Esther, or are you more like Haman?

BLESSING

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, need-ing nothing." James 1:2-4

IN TRUTH Esther Live for God, Not for Man



This lesson shows us Esther's courage and the pride of Haman.

We can do what Esther has done. Be faithful to the Word of God. Live in obedience to him. Get instruction from friends and family who are wise and mature in the Christian faith. And most importantly of all, pray. Then, and only then, make a decision and go with it, trusting that God will work out all of the details as only He can.

Pride was Haman's undoing and his primary sin. From it sprang another common sin: prejudice. Prejudice is an irrational suspicion or hatred of a particular group, race, or religion and often leads to persecution. It is when we prejudge and we think of ourselves as superior.

It takes practice to see ourselves—and others—as God sees us. Every person is a valuable creation of God the Creator. We are different because God made us that way.

Do you go out of your way to express unconditional acceptance of someone who is "different" from you? Think of Jesus' example, what do you think He would do?

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