

November 14, 2015

## Esther 5-6

After Mordecai calls upon Esther to petition the king on behalf of the people, Esther ultimately replies that she will go to the king, even at the cost of her own life. After three days of having death hanging over her, the king welcomes her and extends life to her. He likes her so much, he will give her anything she wants without even knowing what she will ask.

Meanwhile, Haman is becoming furious with Mordecai and is starting to unravel. His pride has made him weak and predictable as he has become a slave to his emotions. The night before a banquet and the night before he desired Mordecai to be impaled, the king couldn't sleep and asked someone to read the chronicles to him. It was found that Mordecai was never rewarded for saving the king's life. The king "coincidentally" sees Haman and asks him what he should do to honor someone. Unbeknownst to Haman - and with his pride clouding his vision - he ends up planning the celebration of the very man he desired to kill.

### Questions:

1. Pride is a disease we all carry; it is at the root of all sin. When it goes unnoticed and unchecked, the pattern of chronic pride carries with it some significant weight and symptoms. Which one of the following descriptions do you identify with the most?
  - a. Your feelings are easily hurt.
  - b. You wonder why people don't thank you enough.
  - c. You consistently find yourself in the middle of conflict.
  - d. You need to be right about everything; being wrong is not an option.
2. Due to the corruption of sin, we all have the soul of a king. We believe that nothing should challenge us and that everything should come up underneath our authority. How does this flesh out on a day-to-day basis in your life?
3. Read Proverbs 27:6. Discuss the concept of looking more for comfort and support from your counsel vs. seeking truth and wisdom from those willing to say the hard things.
4. Just like Haman, our pride limits our ability to think clearly and to influence others positively. Are there areas in your life that your pride has been limiting your ability to think clearly? Please explain.
5. How does the truth of the gospel set us free "to see and to turn?"