

## Esther - Week 8

### Old Enemy, New Name

Est 3:1 After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. 2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. 3 Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" 4 Day after day they spoke to him, but he refused to comply. Therefore, they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead, Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. NIV

- Mordecai **refused** to kneel, which made Haman's hate for the Jews even worse.
- Haman was full of hate but had **charm** before the King and Queen.
- Haman was a Ag/ag/ite. Amalek was the grandson of Esau, who despised his birthright. Esau and the Amalekites grieved God by their rejection of the **grace** God offered to them.
- Haman saw Mordecai as a threat to his **authority**, and pride.
- Today, many people allow their will to be influenced by their mind and emotions. Satan doesn't just want to control our mind and emotions; he wants to control our **will** so that it is in conflict with God's plans.
- The "Hamans" will always be in our lives, but let God use them to make us **stronger**, and we can say no to the sin they offer.
- God is teaching us not to **quit**, and to run our own race and finish the course He has given us to run.
- We must allow our own sin to cause us to stop and decide its time for a **cleansing** of our minds and hearts,
- The decisions of the King and Queen and Haman were not initiated by God nor were they **prevented** by God.

Question: Why did God so dislike Esau and Haman?

Because God can do absolutely nothing with a man who will not **admit** that he needs anything from God.

- Haman was a **tool** to be used by Satan to accomplish his destruction of the Jewish nation.
- Mordecai's response is amazing. Mordecai had a quiet, unflinching **confidence** that trusted God.
- Mordecai refused to **waver** from his choice not to bow down.

Esther was a woman, a Jew with **strength** and character.

Six characteristics of Esther that should motivate us to become more like her and less like Haman:

1. Esther exhibited a **grace-filled** charm and elegance.  
The inner **qualities** of a believer will come forth when trials of life come after them.
2. Esther exhibits an unusual amount of **restraint** and control.  
**Chuck Swindoll once said** "*Verbal restraint is fast becoming a forgotten virtue.*"
3. Esther kept and practiced a **teachable** spirit.
4. Esther lived a modest, **unselfish**, authentic lifestyle before all those around her.
5. Esther was kind and **caring** regardless of her circumstances.
6. Esther had humility concerning her **submitting** to authority.

Final Thoughts:

To become a special person like Esther, we have to learn how to handle difficult circumstances with dignity.

HOW??

1. Ask God to cultivate a godly **character** in you daily.
2. Trust God when you just can't see the **answers** yet. God knows the way!