

HUMILITY AND PRIDE

--ESTHER 5:1-14--

INTRODUCTION:

In chapter four we learned of the reaction of Mordecai and the Jews upon hearing the new edict issued from the king. Mordecai instructed Esther to go before the king and plead for her people. Since she had not been summoned by the king, going into his presence unannounced was taking your life in your own hands. At the end of chapter 4, with courage and grace, Esther bows to the will of Mordecai and agrees to go unannounced to the king to plead for her people. But first Mordecai must gather all the Jews in Susa and fast on Esther's behalf for three days and Esther with her maids will do the same. Then she would go to the king, even though it was against the law. Esther's resolve was, "If I perish, I perish." The fast symbolized Esther's complete willingness to enter into death—a death three days and three nights long. Esther was willing to die to save her people from annihilation, just as Jesus Christ was willing to save us from the second death. This morning we enter into chapter five; the three days of fasting are over. It is the third day, the fast is over.

I. ESTHER'S AUDIENCE (Esther 5:1-4)

- a. As we begin chapter five, it is the third day since Esther petitioned Mordecai to gather the Jews and to _____ on her behalf.
- b. We have already learned that the human _____ is made alive in resurrection power by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- c. The _____ of man, represented by the king, has the power to reject the pleadings of the spirit.
- d. When the king saw Esther standing in the doorway, he was again struck by her beauty and her spirit of _____ as she came before him.

II. ESTHER'S BANQUET (Esther 5:5-8)

- a. Ahasuerus immediately sends for _____ to come quickly so that they might go to the Queen's banquet.

- b. God knows that the king needs time to base his _____ concerning Esther's request on more than the warmth of love, the attraction that he has toward Esther. (John 8:32)

III. HAMAN'S ARROGANCE (Esther 5:9-12)

- a. The banquet is _____ and Haman heads for home.
- b. When we get to Haman's house, we see another reason that Esther's plea for the lives of her people was _____.
- c. Delay gives our _____ the opportunity to become puffed up with a sense of its own importance and it will come to a point when it drops its subtle act and act in such open arrogance that even we can see how rotten and evil our flesh is.
- d. This is what we see happening with Haman, he is so upset and angry with Mordecai's show of _____.
- e. There is nothing that soothes our battered _____ more than the sympathetic listeners to the tales of our own ability and glory.
- f. Haman is displaying his pride for all to see, and to top it all off he alone was _____ by the queen to dine with the king and queen, not once but twice.

IV. HAMAN'S PLAN (Esther 5:13-14)

- a. But even with all his prideful boasting Haman says, "*Yet all of this does not _____ me every time I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.*" (Esther 5:13, NASB95)
- b. They suggest that he build a _____ 75-80 feet high, so everyone can see it, then tell the king to hang Mordecai on it and then go joyfully to the queen's banquet.

CONCLUSION:

This chapter shows us two opposites, humility and pride. Esther humbled herself before the Lord and said if I perish, I perish. Then she courageously and boldly went to the king.

Haman is just the opposite; he is a prideful and hateful man. He is God's enemy, and we understand why as he has exposed himself in arrogance and hate. This is our enemy as well.