

Haman's Plot to Destroy the Jews - Esther 3:1-15

Topics: Accusation, Actions, Ambition, Authority, Conflict, Consequences, Criticism, Danger, Dishonesty, Disobedience, Example, Frustration, Greed, Hatred, Instructions, Intimidation, Obligation, Plans, Position, Power, Pride, Punishment, Risk, Status, Submission

Open It

- * 1. When have you ever felt unfairly treated?
- 2. How do most people normally react to unfair treatment?
- 3. In your opinion, what's the best way to earn the respect of others?

Explore It

- 4. How did King Xerxes honor Haman? (3:1-2)
- * 5. In what way did Mordecai disobey the king's order? (3:2)
- 6. How did Mordecai respond to the officials' questions about his behavior? (3:3-4)
- 7. For what reason did the officials tell Haman about Mordecai's behavior? (3:4)
- 8. How did Haman react to Mordecai's refusal to bow down to him? (3:5)
- * 9. Why did Haman want to kill all of the Jews? (3:5-6)
- 10. When did Haman decide to kill all the Jews in the kingdom? (3:7)
- 11. How did Haman present his intentions to the king? (3:8-9)
- * 12. Which parts of Haman's speech to the king were true, and which were false? (3:8-9)
- 13. What important piece of information did Haman neglect to tell the king? (3:8-9)
- 14. How did King Xerxes respond to Haman's request? (3:10-11)
- 15. How did Haman add authority to his edict? (3:12)
- 16. What did Haman do to carry out his plan? (3:12-15)
- 17. How did Mordecai's behavior affect the whole kingdom? (3:12-15)

Get It

- 18. How does the king's and Haman's response to the edict contrast to the reaction of the common people of the city?
- 19. Why do you think Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman?
- 20. What character flaws of Haman are revealed in this part of the story?
- 21. What similarities or differences do you see between Haman and yourself?
- * 22. How can Christians guard against the temptations of pride and greed?
- 23. Why do you think King Xerxes failed to see through Haman's selfish and deceitful plot?
- 24. To what human weakness in the king did Haman appeal when he presented his request?
- 25. What blinded the king from seeing the truth of the situation?
- * 26. When has your pride ever interfered with your ability to discern the truth?
- 27. What do you think we can do to become more discerning people?

Apply It

- * 28. What specific steps can you take this week to guard against the sin of pride?
- 29. For what problem or challenge do you need to ask God and other Christians for wisdom and discernment?