

## Your SIN Will Find You Out

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*Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD:  
and be sure your sin will find you out.*

### Esther chapters 5-7

#### **ESTHER 5**

- 1 Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.
- 2 And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favor in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the scepter.
- 3 Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.
- 4 And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.
- 5 Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.
- 6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.
- 7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;
- 8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said.
- 9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.
- 10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.
- 11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.
- 12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.
- 13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.
- 14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.

#### **ESTHER 6**

- 1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.
- 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.
- 3 And the king said, What honor and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.
- 4 And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.
- 5 And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.
- 6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?

- 7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honor,
- 8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:
- 9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor.
- 10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.
- 11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor.
- 12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.
- 13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.
- 14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.

#### **ESTHER 7**

- 1 So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.
- 2 And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.
- 3 Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:
- 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.
- 5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?
- 6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.
- 7 And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.
- 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
- 9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.
- 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

This morning we talked about the children of Israel. We know that they had spent many years in the land of Babylon when Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar were the kings. They were in world domination at that time. We know that God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to take them to Babylon because of their sin. He was chastising them. God had not rejected them necessarily, but He was chastising them and correcting them to get them back to the place where they could worship Him as they needed to. We know that Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, it became time that they moved off the scene and we know that the Medes and the Persians came along.

When we get to the book of Ezra, we read in the book of Ezra that Ezra came back and ...the book of Nehemiah. They were able to bring back about 50,000 of the Jews back into the land. When we get to chapters six and seven, this is where the book of Esther comes in; between chapter six and chapter seven of the book of Ezra.

[This morning](#) we talked many different things and we are not going to have time to go through all of that. I hope that you can remember all of that. They were in Persia. The Persians were in control. Shushan is in Persia. We know that Persia is modern day Iran. We know that we were introduced unto a few people. We were introduced to the king that was there and his wife, Vashti that he dethroned. We talked some about Mordecai, Haman and Esther and some of the others.

As we start tonight's lesson, remember that Haman got his position—Esther has been put on the throne as queen. She has been queen probably about five, maybe six years when Haman comes on the scene. Haman gets his position by flattery; he may have bought it, or he may have pulled all kinds of different political strings to get his job. However, we know that he was an Agagite. That should tell us something as we read through our Bible reading, we are going to encounter the Amalekites and we are also going to encounter someone by the name of Agag. Do you remember him? Haman is a descendant of the Agagites. We will talk about that maybe some other time. It would take a while to get through that.

The Agagites and the Amalekites were enemies of the children of Israel. The deep seated hatred here of the Amalekites towards the Jews went way back. Haman here gets his position. There is a guy sitting at the gate by the name of Mordecai. We know that he is a Jew. We know that he held some kind of a position here in the Persian Empire and he sat at the gate. That is where they did their business at. That is where their court room is at and that is where Mordecai was at.

We know that there came a time when he got news that two Ahasuerus's people that waited upon him, waited upon the door; they were going to kill him and we know that Mordecai made it known unto the king. They took care of those two guys and nothing ever happened, but that is going to play back into the story here in a little while. Anyway, we know that Haman, when he is promoted; he was so exalted in himself that he was eat up with pride. When he would walk down the street and as we talked this morning, people would bow down, pay almage and people would reverence people in different positions of authority in the kingdom and rightfully so. However, when it came to Mordecai, he knew who Haman was. As I said this morning, we had better be very careful of who we are shaking hands with and patting on the back and saying "Hey, we bid you God Speed." Bidding 'God Speed' may come back to get us after awhile.

Here, Mordecai would not bow down to him. He would not pay him almage. He would not tell him how great guy he was and this absolutely infuriated Haman. It just tore him all to pieces. We know that he decided here that he was going to get rid of the Jews. We know that he went to the king and made up a story. The king said "Fine, here's my ring. Write up the letter and write up the decree. You can seal it with my ring." However, what he did was that he wrote up a law and had the king's permission to kill all Jews on a certain particular day of about a year later. He had it all signed, sealed, and sent out over the whole land. However, when Mordecai found out about what was going on we know

that he began to weep. He began to mourn and cry out unto Almighty God. He sat in sackcloth and ashes at the gate.

As we talked this morning, when this thing was made aware unto Esther we know that Mordecai is encouraging Esther to go to the king and talk to the king.

I thought about what someone said a while ago about faith. We do live by faith. In the plan of Almighty God, faith is great, but somebody has to do something. Faith is a wonderful thing and we have to live by Faith, but somebody has to do something. Faith is wonderful. Faith is a great thing but Faith without works is dead. When it is alone, Faith is not worth anything if it does not have some works that goes with it. Here somebody has to do something. If somebody doesn't do something here, then all the Jews, fifteen million Jews, are going to be killed. They are all going to be put to death. Therefore somebody has to do something.

Somebody needs to be doing something today. You and I need to be doing something today. Living by Faith is wonderful, but we need to be doing something today.

We know that Mordecai convinces Esther to go before the king. Now as we start chapter five, this is what we get to. Esther is going to go before the king. We know that she puts on her royal robe and royal garments; the apparel here that she wore. She probably cleaned herself up real good, no doubt. She is a very beautiful woman anyway. She puts on this and goes before the king. She also knows that when she gets there that she has not been invited. She can also be put to death if the king does not invite her in. In other words, if he is in a bad mood today and if he does not raise his scepter up and give her permission to come in then she also knows that she can be put to death. She decided that she had to do something. Her people were going to die. They were going to be murdered. She understood that and she knew that she had to do something. That is what she did. She goes before the king.

It is amazing what God is doing here. It is amazing what God is doing here. It is amazing how God is working here. She goes before the king Ahasuerus. He asked her what her request was. What did she want? Do you know what the king said?

*6 And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*

In other words, you can ask whatever you want to ask of me and I'll give you up to the half of my kingdom. That is saying a whole lot. When you study about the Persian Empire, they brought in about t 25 or 30 million dollars a year in revenue. That would have been a whole lot of money. Wouldn't it? That was just for one year. He said, "Ask what you want to ask and I'll give you to the half of my kingdom."

She said:

*7 Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is ;  
8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my  
petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet  
that I shall prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king hath said.*

“I’m going to make a banquet. I’m going to have a party tonight and I want you and Haman to come. I want you to come to my party and then we will talk.” We know that the king goes and tells Haman. They come to the party. They go to where Esther is living at. They sat there eating and drinking. They are having their party and the king says again, “What is it that you want from me? What is your request that you want to make of me?”

I thought why didn't Esther tell the king here? Why didn't she go ahead and say, “Hey, Haman is trying to kill us all. He’s a jerk. He’s a murderer.” She did not do that because she was listening to the voice of Almighty God. God was going to speak to the king. God was going to get the king’s attention and God was going to do some things here in this very night that Esther knew nothing about, but because she was listening to the voice of God; she did the right thing.

In my life and in your life, we would be so much better off if we would listen to the voice of God, if we would wait till He speaks before we speak; we would be a lot better off. We get ourselves in so much of a mess with our mouths. We miss so many blessings with our mouths. Here is the thing that we need to think about. The Bible tells us that our tongues can be a blessing or a cursing. We can either bless God or curse men with our tongues. Many times in our lives we miss out on so much from Almighty God because we cannot, we will not control our tongues. We can allow God to control our tongues, but we will not allow God to control our tongues. Therefore, we let our tongues destroy us a lot of times. We let our tongues rob us from the blessings of God a lot of times. Not only that, but with our mouths many times, we derail the plan of God.

Do you know what Esther could have done here? She could have said “Hey, this guy is a jerk.” Then God would have never had the opportunity to work on the king here when he took a nap this very night. He would not have been able to do that.

They are having their banquet. They are no doubt, having a good time. I can just imagine Haman. He is the one who hatched the plan to kill all the Jews. He thinks it is fine. He thinks it is cool. He thinks that everything is just lovely that he is going to be able to get all this stuff done. Here he is sitting with the king and the queen over all the land of Persia. He is sitting here having dinner with them. Could you imagine how exalted he must feel? I’ll bet his chest was sticking out to here. I’ll bet he was beating himself on the chest. “Here I am up sitting with the king and the queen.”

Listen. Pride is something that will blind us to the truth. Pride is something that will blind us to the fact of how close danger is sometimes. There is no doubt in my mind that Haman had no idea that in a matter of a few hours that he was going to be dead. He did

not know that. Do you know why? It is because he allowed pride to blind his way of thinking. Malice was going to destroy him.

Here they are. Ahasuerus says “What’s your request?” She said “I want to cook you guys a meal tomorrow night. I want you guys to come.” Here is what happens. The king says “That’s fine. If that is what you want to do.” She said, “You and Haman come back tomorrow evening. I’m going to cook you something else tomorrow. We will talk then.” This is what happens.

9 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.

Everything is going fine. He leaves the banquet hall here with the king. He leaves Esther and he is starting towards his home. He is full of joy. He is probably thinking, “Man, I have made it to the top. I have just eaten with the king and the queen. She has invited me back tomorrow night. I have made it to the top.”

It is sad how much and how bad pride really blinds us to the truth. Haman hated the Jews. His indignation, his malice towards these people; you couldn’t measure it. When he left, he was happy. His heart was really glad, but when he saw Mordecai—he was going home. He was laughing. He was happy. He is full of joy and everything is just fine. However, when he saw Mordecai—do you know what Mordecai did not do? He did not bow down to him. Mordecai did not even get out of his way. He did not even move for him. Do you know what this did? This absolutely enraged Haman.

That is sad when we get an inflated opinion of ourselves that we think people have to move for us or bow down to us. That is sad. If we have to have people to pat us on the back and to praise us then we need to move to Hollywood. We need to move to Nashville or somewhere. We don’t know need to be in God’s work. Really, we are not doing it anyway if that is how we feel. If that is what it takes for us to be able to continue to do what we are doing is somebody patting us on the back, then we are in the wrong thing. Haman was going to learn a very serious lesson.

*10 Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.*

He comes home and here he is pouting. If there is ever a mommy’s boy, I think Haman was. I think that probably his mommy spoiled way back when he was a boy and here he comes home pouting. He doesn’t get his way. He is mad. He hates the Jews. He hates Mordecai. He doesn’t get up and bow down to him. He won’t even get out of the way. He just ate with the king and the queen. He is just having a bad day.

If that is all it takes for you to have a bad day is for somebody not to pat you on the back then you are going to have a bunch of days. Whether it is in your house—husbands and wives don’t pat each other on the back too much anymore. Nobody said Amen on that

did they? However, that is truth. ... We should appreciate our husbands and wives more. What is wrong with telling them we love them? ... or we appreciate them? When they wash clothes or cook for us or whatever they do; what is wrong with husbands and wives saying "I appreciate that." Is there anything wrong with that? We wouldn't argue near as much if we tell each other that we loved them more and we appreciate what they do.

The Bible tells us here that he calls his wife in and he calls his friends in.

*11 And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.*

Do you know what he starts doing? He starts bragging on everything that he has got. He talks about his riches, his kids, how that the king has promoted him here. He starts bragging on everything here about himself. It reminds me of a guy in Luke 12 who was a rich farmer that bragged. He had an "I" problem. I did this. I did that. I'm going to rear down my barns and I'm going to build bigger barns. Haman had that problem.

It was all about him; his riches, his kids, his lineage, and how that the king had promoted him. It was all about him. Look what happens here.

*12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.*

In other words, "The only person she invited except the king was me. She did not let any other man come in. She only invited me and the king. Here I am wealthy. I have ten sons. I have been promoted above all the other princes here. I am rich. I just ate dinner with the king and the queen."

*12 Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king.*

In other words, "Not did I get to eat tonight, but she has invited me to come back tomorrow night." Now look what it says here.

*13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.*

In other words, "I am rich. I am wealthy. I have been promoted. I have got a great family. I just had dinner with the king and the queen. I am going to go back again tomorrow night. However, this means nothing to me because this Mordecai won't bow down. He won't reverence me. He won't pat me on the back." That is living a very vain life.

Vanity will get us in trouble. Having that kind of a hatred towards anybody means there is something in my life or your life if we think that people have to dance when we play music then there is something wrong. People don't have to jump when we say jump. Do they? We think they do sometimes. We lift ourselves up and we exalt ourselves sometimes but you may need to talk to Job there for a little while. Job had some problems there for a little bit. However, God asked him the question one day, "Job, if you know so much where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" We need to ask some people that sometimes.

I heard one fellow say when canceling some people at church and they thought they knew it all and he made the statement "Man, it must be a lot of pressure on you being the prime minister of the earth. There must be a lot of pressure on you thinking that you have to call all the shots of all the earth." We think that sometimes. That always gets us in trouble when we think that we are the only ones who can do anything or are doing anything. We think that we are the only ones who are right. That gets us in trouble. That gets me in trouble and it gets you in trouble. It gets us all in trouble.

*13 Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.*

This guy here won't bow down to me. He won't reverence me. He doesn't appreciate me. It is just tearing me up."

*14 Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and tomorrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*

The first thing I want to say here is that he is looking for counsel in all the wrong places. He calls his wife in. He calls all of his friends in. It is great to consult people and talk to people and that is really good. However, again we had better weigh out the advice that people gives us because the advice that they give us may get us killed.

His wife said "If that is all you have to worry about this one Mordecai, then go build a gallows that is 75 feet tall and just hang him; just get rid of him. That is all you have to do. Then you can go in and be merry. You will just be so happy."

I knew a family many years ago that the man of the family believed everything his wife said. I would not have believed her if she told me it was daylight outside. I would have had to gone outside and look to see before I would believe her.

What I am saying is this. People don't always tell you the truth. People don't always give you right advice. Sometimes advice that we get from our husbands and wives may not necessarily be right. That is very true. Pilate got some advice from someone that was very close to him. Do you remember the advice that Pilate got?

She told him, “Build you a gallows.” Sometimes we need to listen, but sometimes we need to weigh out the advice that people give.

This dear gentleman believed everything that his wife said. This guy got in all kinds of messes. All the years that I knew them, he was tore up 95% of the time because he listened to the lies that his wife told him about the neighbors and about this and that. He believed everything she said. He was probably one of the most miserable people that I was ever around because he listened to everything that his wife said. I know there are men like that too. There are men that you cannot believe. I’m not picking on the women.

We need to be very careful what advice that we listen to and the advice that we act upon. We better make sure that it is right. Listen to this. Murder is not ever good advice. Going out and hanging somebody is never good advice. You would not have to be a smart fellow to figure that out. Hanging somebody would not work.

*6: 1 On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

*6: 2 And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*

The king finds out about his two chamberlains that sat at the gate that was trying to kill him. Mordecai found that out and made this known unto the king. Because he told the king what was going on then the king’s life was spared. Look what happens here. He asked “What did we do for him? How did we reward him? Did we promote him? What did we do for him?”

The Bible goes on down here and they said “We did not do anything for him.” He said “What should we do? What should we do for someone like this?”

The king is talking here what he should do.

*6 So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honor more than to myself?*

In other the king says “I want to honor somebody here. I want to bless somebody here. Somebody done some great things for me and I want to bless them.” The first thing Haman thought was “Hey, it must be me. I am the greatest thing that ever came along. It would have to be me. It couldn’t be anybody else. There is nobody greater than I am so I know it would have to be me.”

We get that way sometimes. Don’t ever get there because it is a horrible place to be.

*7 And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honor,*

*8 Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:*

*9 And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honor, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honor.*

He was saying all these things but he thought it was going to be him riding the horse. He thought it was going to be him having all the apparel and wearing the crown with somebody leading the horse down through town and telling everybody “Hey, the king wants to honor this guy.” That is what he thought. Things did not work out quite that way. Pride is a horrible thing.

You see a guy here that is about to get the air let out of his balloon.

*10 Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.*

In other words, “That sounds like a great plan Haman. That sounds like a wonderful thing. I want you to go get the apparel, horse and everything that you spoke about and I want you to do just exactly what you said but I want you to give the horse and apparel; I want you to lead it down through town but I want Mordecai to be riding upon it.”

How do you think that made Haman feel? Do you think he got deflated a little bit? That is good for us. When Christian people get inflated in themselves; it is good to be deflated. Sometimes, being deflated is a good thing.

*11 Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor.*

*12 And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.*

Do you know what he did? He goes down the street leading the horse with Mordecai upon it and everybody is praising Mordecai. He is telling everybody how great Mordecai is and now the king wants to honor him. When the parade was over, he pulled his shirt up over his head to hide his face and he goes home.

How do think he felt now? He did not feel good. I promise you that.

*13 And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.*

They had just told him a few before to go build a gallows and hang him. Now Mordecai has been exalted. He's been promoted. Now he comes back and talks to his wife and friends again. They say "If Mordecai is a Jew then you are in a heap of trouble. You are on your own now. Even though we told you to do this, you are on your own now." They are going to try to wash their hands. That is what people do sometimes. Don't they?

*14 And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.*

Here we go as Haman is talking to his wife and his friends and they said "You are on your own now. You are in a heap of trouble. If Mordecai is a Jew, you are going to lose. You cannot win." Here comes the king's Chamberlin, they come and take Haman away. He's has to go to the banquet. When they get here—they are in the banquet in Esther's home/apartment or wherever she lived. They are eating. They are drinking and so forth. The king says "What is your request? What is really on your mind?" She begins to say this. She begins to talk about how they had been sold and how that they were going to be murdered and how that all these things were going to happen to them.

Do you know what the king said?

*5 Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?*

In other words, he said "Who is going to do something like that? Who would want to kill all you folks? Who would think that they could do all that?"

*6 And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.*

Just the night before, he had been so happy. He had been eating with the queen and eating with the king. His heart was filled with joy. He thought his plan was going to work out. He thought that he was going to get rid of the Jews and get rid of Mordecai. He thought that he was going to live many years and be exalted and be the prime minister over all the land of Persia. However, he forgot that there was a God in heaven overruling all the plans and all the wickedness that he was trying to do upon God's people. Haman did not know that. If he ever knew, he did not think about it. Do you know why he did not think about it? It was because of pride. Pride blinds our minds. Pride shuts our minds off. Pride sometimes thinks that we can do anything and get by with it. Pride inflates us. Pride does a lot of things to us.

When Esther looks directly here there is no doubt in mind when the king says "Who is doing this?" She says "Haman, Haman is our enemy. This wicked Haman. He is the one who is doing this."

Do you know what the Bible says then? Now Haman is scared to death. The king goes out of the room and we know that Haman starts to plead for his life. He goes over and

falls down on the bed where Esther is at. The king comes back in and he thinks that Haman is trying to take advantage of Esther. Do you know what they do? Do you know what happens to Haman?

We know that the men tell him about the gallows. Do you know what the king says? "Take him out here and hang him. Get rid of him."

I said all that this morning and tonight to say this.

Don't ever think that you can overrule the hand of Almighty God. Don't ever think that God will let you prosper in your sin, trying to destroy His work and His people. Don't ever think that you will prosper in that. There is an all-seeing eye of an Almighty God tonight that is sitting in heaven. Don't ever think that you can deter or destroy His plan because it is not going to happen.

Haman was going to destroy all of the Jews. There have been many nations in the last few hundred years that have tried to destroy Israel. J Vernon McGee made a good statement. Do you know what the Jews have done? The Jews have gone to the funeral of every nation who has tried to destroy them. They have done that.

You cannot destroy God's people. I don't care how smart you think you are. I don't care how much pride has lifted you up. That does not matter. You cannot destroy God's plan. When you lay a trap for people, and you lay a snare for people and you dig a hole for people; do you know what is going to happen? You are the one who is going to be in it. You are the one who will step into the trap. You are the one who is going to fall into the hole.

When you try to destroy God's people, when you lay traps for God's people then you are the one who is going to get hurt?

Do you know what happened to Haman?

They hung him on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai. That is where Haman lost his life. Not only that but do you know what happens here as you read on down through the story? We know that God blesses Esther and Mordecai. He exalts them and they have a wonderful time here even though they were in the land of Persia. God blesses them in a great way.

Haman is gone. Ahasuerus gives Haman's stuff away. We could talk about that a long time.

Not only did Haman die, but Haman's 10 sons died also. Everything Haman had was gone.

One day he was the prime minister and the next day he was hanging on the gallows. It was all because of pride; all because he tried to destroy the plan of Almighty God.

I would plead with you tonight before you ever say anything to destroy God's people or God's work. You would be better off to cut your tongue off than you would be to slander God's people.

We hear a lot of negative things today being said about the Jews and the Jewish people. Don't ever be guilty of that. Don't ever be slandering the Jewish people. They were God's chosen people. They are God's chosen people. A million years from today they will still yet be God's chosen people. Don't ever forget that.