

## Hamán's Haughtiness & Mordecai's Mettle

Esther 2:19-3:7

Outline by Phil Kayser

- I. Mordecai and Haman are Deliberately Juxtaposed as Spiritual Representatives
  - A. *Mordecai as the representative of Israel*
  - B. *Haman as the representative of the Amalekites*
  
- II. They stand juxtaposed as civil rulers
  - A. *Mordecai the statesman*
    - 1. Mordecai seeks the welfare of the city
    - 2. Mordecai stands for principle even if it could mean his job (3:2-4)
    - 3. He uses his influence to advance God's laws (9)
    - 4. He sought the good of his countrymen (10:3)
  - B. *Haman the consummate politician*
    - 1. Haman seeks only the welfare of himself
    - 2. Haman uses the king and the government to advance his personal vendettas
    - 3. Haman does not seek the welfare of the country as a whole. Instead, he sacrifices lives for the sake of personal goals.
  
- III. They stand in this passage as contrasts of character
  - A. *Haman's progression down*
    - 1. Haman self-seeking
    - 2. Haman feeds his pride – he longs for honor
    - 3. Hurt leads to anger
    - 4. Haman nurses his hurt feelings
    - 5. Haman seeks personal revenge
    - 6. Haman has a great fall
  - B. *Mordecai's progress up*
    - 1. Mordecai not self-seeking
      - a) He shows concern for the "welfare" of Esther (2:11)
      - b) He sought to be a faithful magistrate (2:21)
      - c) He sought the welfare of his people (10:3)
      - d) He was willing to lay down his career and even his life for principle (3:2-4 with Exodus 17:14-16; Deut. 25:17-19)
    - 2. Mordecai crucified his pride and did not seek honor
      - a) He hides that of which he could boast (his royal lineage)
      - b) He didn't seek advancement in exchange for compromise (3:2-4)
      - c) Later, when he gets honor, he doesn't boast in it, but immediately goes back to work (6:11-12)
      - d) Even later in the story he seeks the welfare of his people rather than his own advancement or security (8)
    - 3. Mordecai does not nurse hurt feelings or seek personal revenge
      - a) His daughter has been taken from him against his will (a shotgun wedding)
      - b) This second gathering of virgins adds insult to injury.
      - c) If anyone had motivation to be angry against the king, he did.
      - d) Yet he subsumes his own desires and acts as a responsible citizen (2:21-23)
  
- IV. Life is filled with injustices, but we should trust the God who controls all things to do right.
  - A. *Steps to avoiding bitterness*
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
    - 4.
  - B. *Why do people lack moral courage?*
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.
  - C. *What are two essential ingredients for having moral courage?*
    - 1.
    - 2.