

**“A Portrait Of Pride”**  
**Esther 5:9-14**

**Introduction:**

1. As We Head Back To Esther This Morning:
  - Esther Chapter 5 - We Come To:
    - A Kind Of Intermission:
      - In The Plan Of Esther:
        - To Reveal Herself & Her People To Her Husband - The King!
  - If You Recall:
    - Esther Had Prepared A Special Banquet:
      - For The King & For Haman:
        - Yet - For Some Reason - She Was Not Quite Ready To Share With The King:
          - Her “Petition & Request!”
    - And So - She Invited Them Both Back:
      - To Another Banquet – To Be Held:
        - The Very Next Day!
2. And So - During This One-Night Intermission:
  - God Himself Continues To Silently:
    - Work Out **His Own** Plan:
      - For The Ultimate Deliverance Of His People!
  - And Our Attention Is First Turned:
    - To Haman - In 5:9-14:
      - Who Emerges From Queen Esther’s First Banquet:
        - Walking On “Cloud Nine!”
      - 5:9 - “Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart!”
        - He Is So Happy - He Might Have Even Felt Like Skipping All The Way Home! “Glad Heart!”
  - That Is - Until His Path Meets Up Once Again:
    - With Mordecai - The Jew:
      - And Then We See The Real Haman Come Out!
3. In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
  - We Are Given A Portrait Of This Man:
    - And His Heart!
      - **IE:** Several Years Ago - I Discovered On Facebook My Former Elementary & Junior High School Art Teacher - Who Meant A Lot To Me Growing Up - I Asked If She Would Do A Pencil-Sketch Portrait Of One Of My Favorite Photos Of Me & My Wife! And So She Did! When I Received The Portrait She Also Described How She Felt About Drawing Our Faces - And It Was As If She Could See Right Into Our Hearts! And This Is What Good Portraits Can Do!
  - A Portrait May Capture Your Appearance:
    - What You Look Like & What You Are Doing!
      - But A Good Artist Can Capture So Much More!
        - In Much The Same Way, The Inspired Writer Of Esther Captures For Us The Very Heart Of This Man – Haman!
    - And It Is:
1. **A Portrait Of A Proud Heart!**
  - God Has A Lot To Say About Pride In The Bible!
    - It Is One Of The Greatest Sins & Abominations Before Him!
      - Proverbs 6:16-17 - “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look!” - The Very First One In The List!
    - So - Just What Does A “Proud Look” Look Like?
      - And How Can You Identify A “Proud Heart”?
        - Look At This Portrait Of Haman!
  - See The Character Of A Proud Heart!
    - 5:9 - “Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart!”
      - When Haman Left The Queen’s Banquet:
        - He Left Happy – Truly Happy!
          - “Joyful & With A Glad Heart!”

- But Just Look At How Fleeting & Temporary:
  - His Happiness Was!
    - He Was About To Be Confronted With A Reminder That He Did *Not* Have Everything His Heart Desired!
- 5:9 - “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!”
  - In An Instant - His “Visage Was Changed!”
    - And His Merry Heart Turned Into A Malicious Heart!
- The Character Of A Proud Heart:
  - Is Restlessness!
    - Up & Down!
    - “Like A Wave Of The Sea Driven With Th Wind And Tossed!” (James 1:16)
    - Never Satisfied / Never Content / Never Truly Happy!
  - Is This What Your Heart Is Like?
    - It Can Be A Symptom Of A Proud Heart!
- Also: See The Craving Of A Proud Heart!
  - In 5:10 - “Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife!”
    - Even Though Haman Was Enraged:
      - He Was Able To “Restrain” & Compose Himself!
      - After All - He Thought - He Didn’t Want To Appear Powerless There At The King’s Gate!
  - And So He Went Home:
    - To Vent - But When He Got There:
      - Nobody Was Home!
      - So - He “Send And Called For His Friends & His Wife!”
  - The Craving Of A Proud Heart:
    - Is Recognition!
      - His Misery Needed Company!
        - The Company Of His Like-Minded Friends, Who Would Think As He Thought & Feel As He Felt!
    - Is This What Your Heart Is Like?
      - Always Craving & Seeking:
        - The Recognition That You Feel You Deserve?
        - This Is Another Symptom Of A Proud Heart! Also:
- See The Content Of A Proud Heart!
  - In 5:11-12 - “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. / 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 to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king!”
    - When His Wife And Friends Finally Arrive At Haman’s Home:
      - He Begins To Remind Them All About Himself & His Achievements!
        - All Of Which They Probably Already Knew - Except His Most Recent Achievement - Being Personally Invited By The Queen To Those 2 Exclusive Banquets!
  - Now - All Of These “Achievements” Were In Fact:
    - Great Blessings!
      - And If Haman Had A Different Heart & A Different Audience - He Could Have Been “Counting His Many Blessings – Naming Them One By One!”
    - His Wealth Was A Blessing!
      - “The Glory of His Riches!”
      - Haman Was A Very Rich Man!
        - He Was Able To Offer The King 10,000 Talents Of His Own Silver!
    - His Family Was A Blessing!
      - “The Multitude Of His Children!”
      - Haman And His Wife Had 10 Sons:
        - Which We Learn About Later!
      - And In Ancient Persia, The More Sons A Man Had - The Greater Honor He Received!

- Every Year - The King Would Send Gifts To The Men Who Had The Greatest Number Of Sons - Fit For Service To The Empire!
- His Position Was A Blessing!
  - “All The Things Wherein The King Had Promoted Him!”
  - He Had The Unique Ability In His Positions To Appear Before The King:
    - And To Act On Behalf Of The King! Kind Of Like VP Pence!
- His Relationship Was A Blessing!
  - 5:12 - “Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king!”
  - He Believed He Had The Affection & Favor Of Both The King And The Queen!
- But Instead Of “Praising God – From Whom All Blessings Flow” & Using Them To Serve God - For The Glory Of God & For The Good Of Others - He Boasts & Gloats Over What He Thought Were His Own Achievements!
  - His Proud Heart Convinced Himself That He Had Earned All Of These Things!
    - And Yet - Was He Satisfied?
      - Was All Of This Enough For Him? No!
  - Instead Of Giving Glory To God:
    - He Sought Even More Glory For Himself!
- Is This What Your Heart Is Like?
  - This Is Another Symptom Of A Proud Heart!
    - And If You Are Looking To Other People Or Other Things For Satisfaction:
      - In Your Life - You Will Be Severely Disappointed!
  - Because Everything You Have Been Given:
    - Can Be Taken Away - Even In An Instant!
      - Proverbs 23:5 - “Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven!”
- Consider God’s Servant Job!
  - He Too Was Blessed By God In Many Ways:
    - Great Wealth / Great Family / Great Position / Great Relationships!
      - But Job Understood - By God’s Grace - That “A Man’s Life Consists Not In The Abundance Of The Things Which He Possesses!” (Luke 12:15)
    - And So - Even When - According To The Plan & Providence Of God - Everything He Had Was Taken Away From Him Suddenly - He Could Still Say - Job 1:21 - “Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD!”
- How Would You Feel & What Would You Do:
  - If Everything You Have Was Suddenly:
    - Taken Away From You?
      - What Would You Still Have?
      - Who Would You Still Have?
    - Would You Feel Like Haman?
- See The Consideration Of A Proud Heart:
  - In 5:13 - After Listing All Of His Achievements - Which Were Great & Many - “Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate!”
    - **IE:** It’s As If He Had A Balancing Scale In His Mind - And All That He Had Was Lighter Than The Life Of One Man Who Would Not Treat Him As A God!
      - Everything He Had Was “Like Nothing” To Him Until Mordecai Was Out Of The Picture!
        - A Proud Heart Is Never Full – Never Satisfied! Proverbs 27:20 - “Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied!” Also:
- See The Counsel Of A Proud Heart:
  - 5:14 - After Haman’s Boasting & Bemoaning - His Wife Finally Speaks Up - “Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow 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!”
    - What’s This? Haman Is Pleased Again!
      - His Restless Heart Is Happy & Glad Again! But Why?
- Because Of The Presumptuous Counsel & Advice:

- Of His Closest Friends!
  - But Instead Of Words Of True Wisdom & Healing:
    - They Became “Physicians Of No Value!”
- And Their Cure:
  - A “Gallows – Made Of 50 Cubits High!”
    - Would Be Used For His Own Downfall:
      - In Just One Day’s Time!
- Does This Portrait Of Haman’s Heart:
  - Look Like Your Own Heart?
    - Remember - Like Haman - You & I Are:
      - So Prone To Pride! Never Forget That:
        - “Pride Was The First Sin That Entered The Universe! It Was Pride That Turned Angels Into Devils! Pride Has Broken The Peace Of Families And Nations, And Carried Fire And Sword Through The Earth! Pride Has Marred The Work of God! O Beware Of Giving Place To This Monster!” (Thomas M’Crie)
          - This “Monster” Of Pride!
  - A Proud Heart:
    - Is A Restless Heart:
      - Always Seeking Recognition!
  - A Proud Heart:
    - Is An Empty Heart:
      - Always Wanting More!
  - When You Have A Proud Heart:
    - ***You Can Have Everything – And Yet Have Nothing!***
- What Can Be Done? What Do You Need?
  - By God’s Grace - There Is A Better Way:
    - In Matthew 11:28-29 - Jesus Says - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls!”
  - Yes - You Can Even Take Your Proud & Restless & Empty Heart:
    - To Jesus!
- You Must See Your Pride:
  - As God Sees It!
    - As A Sin & An Abomination & A Burden!
  - And Then Turn To:
    - And Trust In Jesus:
      - Who Came Save You – Even From Your Sin Of Pride!
  - And Then - He Offers You:
    - Rest – In Your Restless Heart!
    - Fulness – In Your Empty Heart!
    - And Humility – To Your Proud Heart!
    - “Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! / For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness!” (Psalm 107:8-9)
- And Then - What Will Emerge:
  - Is An Entirely Different Portrait Of Your Heart & Life!
    - It Will Become:

## 2. ***A Portrait Of A Peaceful Heart!***

- Did You Notice The Other Man Mentioned:
  - In These Verses?
    - Although The Focus Is:
      - Haman – And His Proud Heart!
    - We Are Also Given A Very Brief Sketch Of:
      - Mordecai – And His Peace-Filled Heart!
  - Because - Back In 5:9 - Where Do The Paths Of These Two Men Meet Once Again?
    - “Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him!”
      - We See In Mordecai:
- A Quiet Confidence In The Providence Of The Lord!

- Mordecai Was Back “In The King’s Gate!”
  - Doing His Duty Again - In Service Of The King:
    - In Spite Of The Impending Destruction He And His People Were Facing In the 12<sup>th</sup> Month!
- Yet - Now - His Clothes For Mourning Are Gone!
  - Remember - Noone Could Appear In The King’s Gate Clothed In Sackloth & Ashes! (4:2)
    - So - Mordecai - Would Have Had To Clean Himself Up / Change His Clothes / And Return To His Place Of Employment!
      - Even Though Everyone Knew What Was Going On!
- How Could He Do This?
  - His Heart’s Condition:
    - Was Different Than Haman’s!
      - Instead Of Restlessness / There Was Peace!
    - Isaiah 26:3 - “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee!”
  - After Spending 3 Days Of Fasting For Esther:
    - He Displays A Quiet Confidence:
      - In The Providence Of The Lord!
        - Also See:
- A Quiet Commitment To The Precepts Of The Lord!
  - When Haman Entered The King’s Gate That Day:
    - Mordecai “Stood Not Up!”
      - He Remained In His Position - Not Out Of Defiance, But Out Of His Duty & Devotion To The Lord & His Law!
  - Perhaps He Was Tempted:
    - To Rise & Bow To Haman:
      - And Attempt To Appease Haman’s Wrath Against Him & His People!
  - But Instead - Mordecai:
    - Remained Committed To The Truth & Righteousness Of God & His Word!
      - And He Would Not Compromise!
        - Only The Lord Was Worthy Of Worship! Also See:
- A Quiet Courage In The Power Of The Lord!
  - We Are Further Told In 5:9 That:
    - Mordecai Did Not “Move” For Haman:
      - He Did Not Tremble Or Shake With Fear!
        - This Is The Portrait Of A Heart That Is Resting In The Power & Protection Of The Lord!
      - Psalm 62:5-7 - “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. / He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. / In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God!”
- What A Difference In These Two Men!
  - The Extensive Portrait Of Haman:
    - Reveals A Heart Of Pride:
      - That Was Restless & Empty!
  - The Brief Sketch Of Mordecai:
    - Reveals A Heart Of Peace:
      - That Is Full Of Faith & Confidence In The Providence Of The Lord!
  - What Does Your Heart Look Like This Morning?

## Conclusion:

1. The Portrait Of Haman Teaches Us That:
  - ***You Can Have Everything – And Yet Have Nothing!***
    - Because You Will Never Be Satisfied / Content:
      - No Matter How Much You Achieve!
      - No Matter How Much You Have!
    - How Many More Portraits / Illustrations:
      - Do We Need In Order To Understand This Truth?
2. But The Portrait Of Mordecai Shows Us That:

**- You Can Have Nothing – According To The World’s Standards:**

**- And Yet Have Everything:**

**- When You Have The Lord!**

- When You Have Jesus Christ:

- As Your Lord & Savior – You Can Say As Paul Once Said:

- “But I Have All! And Abound! I Am Full!” (Philippians 4:18)

- You Can Have A Heart Full Of Peace:

- When You Remember That:

- God Himself Is Your Portion!

- Your Heart Can Be Full!

- Of Quiet Confidence In The Lord!

- Of Quiet Commitment To The Lord!

- Of Quiet Courage From The Lord!

- Of Quiet Contentment Through The Lord!

- “For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content!” (Philippians 4:11)

3. If A Portrait Were Painted Of You & Your Heart Today:

- What Would It Reveal?

- Go To The Lord Jesus Christ & Learn Of Him!

- Exchange Your Heart Of Pride:

- For His Heart Of Humility! Because:

- He Alone Can Change Your Proud Heart!

- He Alone Can Fill Your Empty Heart!

- He Alone Can Satisfy Your Restless Heart!

4. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. / Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength!” (Isaiah 26:3-4)

***Grace Baptist Church***

***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***

***4245 North 200 West***

***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***

***317-326-2362***

***www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace***

***www.growatgrace.org***

***pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***