

HIDDEN GOD

A SERIES IN ESTHER

SERMON-TEXT DEVOTIONAL

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

TEXT || ESTHER 5:1-14

DAY 1

ESTHER'S INVITATION: Read Esther 5:1-5

Esther: As she comes onto the scene, the narrator points out that Esther is well prepared and strategic by noting what day she appears, what she is wearing, and where she positions herself.

- What is the significance of the "third day"? (see Esther 4:15-17)
- What is she wearing? Why do you think she is dressed this way?
- How does Esther display respect for the king?

The King: The narrator also draws our attention to the appearance of the king.

- Where is he sitting? What is he holding? What is the significance of his action in 5:2? (see Esther 4:11)
- How quickly does the king respond to her request?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 2

ESTHER'S BANQUET: Read Esther 5:1-8

- How many banquets have been in the book of Esther so far?
- What seems to have been the purpose of each of the other banquets?
- How is this banquet different from the other banquet in terms of its scope (number of people invited) and its purpose? Why do you think Esther delays answering the king's question?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 3

HAMAN'S RESPONSE TO ESTHER: Read Esther 5:9-14

Haman: How does Haman respond to being Esther's special guest?

- How does it make him feel? What does it cause him to do?
- What does Esther 5:11-12 confirm about Haman's character? What is important to him?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 4

HAMAN'S RESPONSE TO MORDECAI: Read Esther 5:9-14

Mordecai: How is Mordecai described?

- How are his attitude and actions different than they were at the start of the previous chapter (4:1-2)?
- Why do you think his attitude has changed?

Haman: How do Mordecai's actions affect Haman? What range of emotion does the narrator describe?

- What plot is set in motion to 'handle' Mordecai? Who suggests the plot?

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DAY 5

OUR RESPONSE: Read Esther 5:1-14

We are quick to judge an antagonist in a story, and to self-righteously believe we would never act like him or her. Reflect on what you noted about Haman's character on Day 3. Have you ever:

- Become angry when you feel disrespected?
- Boasted in your achievements? Relished the feeling of being "more important" than others?
- Fantasized about taking revenge against someone who has wronged you?
- Complained about others to your friends and family?
- Experienced difficulty enjoying the 'blessings' you've received because you're focussing on a specific problem?
 - Do you see a bit of Haman in yourself? What might you need to confess today?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication