

Choosing to Be Evil

Esther 7

1. Fact: Being An Enemy of God vs. 1-6

At the banquet that Esther organized, she made a petition and a request for the king to spare her and her people's life from Haman, the enemy of the Jews (3:10); his evil plan of annihilation. Anyone who is an enemy to God's people is an enemy of God.

All human evil always sets itself against God, as God is just. All of humanity has rebelled against God and deserve God's wrath, but each person can receive forgiveness by choosing to believe and receive Jesus saving grace. (Mark 7:21-23; James 1:13-15; John 3:36; Romans 5:8-10)

2. Fueled: By Self Deception vs. 6b-7

Haman allowed his pride and his greed consume him, which led to his demise. These evil motives cause self deception. Haman began to believe that his evil actions toward the Jews were justifiable, and that his actions were so clever that he will never get caught. Instead, he ended up begging Esther for his life.

When we allow pride, greed and lust full reign in our lives, will cause us to be consumed with ourselves and our thoughts are now far from God. (Psalm 10:4). We will choose unwholesome actions to fulfill those desires with no regard to the consequences which will lead to sinning against God and others.

Question:

- Read Matthew 6:19-24. What treasures on earth will lead us astray from God?
- Are you placing too much weight on temporal things like jobs, money, status, etc. to determine your identity?
- What might you do to keep in step with God?

3. Focus: False Security Vs. 8-10

Haman believed that his evil ways would provide well-being and safety. Although, he became on top of the world with all the wealth and power that attends high political rank and was able to boast to family and friends about his position and favor with the king (5:10-14), in the end, the man that Haman had become resulted in his death. Overnight, the tables have turned, and he did not see it coming.

May we live by God's Word, "⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:7-8)

On the final judgment day when the truth is revealed, the condemned will finally realize that they have no one to blame but themselves.

Questions:

- How does the downfall of Haman serve as a cautionary tale in modern times?