

Day 1



Pray | Ask God for a humble heart.

HAUGHTY HAMAN is an example of the attitude that is not pleasing to God. Today, let's pursue what IS pleasing to God.

As a self-made man, who alone was invited to the King's and Queen's banquet, Haman was in high spirits. He was considering his success and future. In his conceit, he felt rage that lowly Mordecai would not show him the respect he felt he deserved. Even though Haman was perceived as rising in power, he found no peace as long as Mordecai sat at the gate. Rage, conceit, power, obsession, and finally, murder had overtaken any joy or peace Haman could enjoy. What a horrible picture of how a puffed-up heart can destroy you!



Read | Proverbs 21:24, Isaiah 66:2b, Esther 5:9-14



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Mordecai took a bold stand by refusing to bow down to Haman. Why is it important to give glory and power to God alone?

What is it about Mordecai that irritated Haman? Are there qualities you would like to emulate or get rid of?

Isaiah 66:2 says God looks with favor upon "those who are humble and contrite in spirit". Spend some time examining your motives. Is there anything you need to hand over to God?

Day 2



Pray | Thank the Lord for the new life he has offered you.

LIKE ESTHER, we are considered dead before we accept Jesus.

Approaching the King could mean death if he chose not to extend his gold scepter. Esther expected to give her life for her request before the King. She didn't go one time, but TWO times. How could Esther do such a scary thing? She had come to the point of considering herself to be already dead. Indeed, she was, if the edict to kill all the Jews was fulfilled. This is how God views us before we accept new life in Jesus. The good news is that Jesus has already extended the "scepter" of life by dying in our place. We need only believe he did it for us and receive it.



Read | Ephesians 2:1-5, Romans 6:4-7, Esther 5:1-2



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Read Ephesians 2:1-5 again and consider what it means to be spiritually dead. Is there someone you need to be praying for regarding this state of being?

If you have a relationship with God, you have been given new life, according to Romans 6:4. What are some ways to begin walking in this new life? How can you begin one of them today?

How can you plug into the Holy Spirit each day? If you don't yet have a relationship with God and want to learn more, reach out to a friend, small group member, or pastor today.

Day 3



Pray | Thank God for times of waiting.

PATIENTLY and cautiously, Esther waited to make her request for Israel.

Waiting seems like a waste of time. Why didn't Esther charge in with her request the first time she went before the King? She took her time, respectfully inching into the final banquet. Often, we think faster is better; but, that's not how God works! He is active in the waiting. We give God time to work out everything, teach us things, or adjust our attitude during a time of waiting.



Read | Isaiah 40:29-31, Isaiah 30:18, Esther 5:1-2, 7:3-6



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

At the present time, for what does God have you waiting? Look over your time and list the things he is teaching you.

Can you think of someone in the Bible who had to wait? What was the result?

If you are an impulsive person, what practical strategy can you use to slow down, wait, and learn patience? Spend some time in prayer and ask God to help you to wait on him.

Day 4



Pray | Ask God to give you a mind that believes all things are possible.

OUR STORY of Esther seems pretty dire as the time for Israel to be annihilated was fast approaching. God, however, had a more perfect plan!

The King's decree to kill the Jewish people could not be revoked because of the laws. But, an even better decree would be sent giving the Jews the right to protect themselves, kill, and annihilate their enemies. As a result, others helped them as they destroyed 75,000 enemies as well as Haman's 10 sons. What began as a campaign to destroy the Jews ended with the Jews prevailing over those enemies. In our wildest dreams, we could not imagine such an epic turning of the tables. God is able to do things we can't even think of!



Read | [Luke 1:37](#), [Ephesians 3:20](#), [Esther 8:7-12](#), [9:5](#)



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Think of a time when you couldn't see the answer and God did something remarkable for you. Thank him for this amazing answer.

Are you feeling overwhelmed by enemies or life in life's circumstances? If so, confess this to Jesus.

If you are in a bog of impossibilities, re-read the verses today and carry them with you. Ask God to show himself to be very real to you today.

Day 5



Pray | Take some time to celebrate some of the things God has done for you.

FEASTING AND JOY were to be observed at this new Jewish holiday. We, too, need to remind ourselves of God's goodness.

We are people who forget. We fall victim to the negative headlines and worry for the future. God knows this is our tendency and, therefore, asks us to look back and remember. He wants us to remember his deliverance, salvation, and goodness. The Jews were to establish a celebration holiday called Purim. It's a time to retell the story of Esther and rejoice. Amidst the celebration is also a time to give gifts to one another and to the poor. How beautiful that God always remembers the poor!



Read | 1 Chronicles 16:11-12, Psalm 77:11-14, Esther 9:14-19



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Think about how you could establish a time of celebration and remembrance for your family or small group. Create a plan and put it in motion today.

As you are rejoicing at God's goodness, spend some time praying for someone who may be struggling. How could you help them?

List 3 big things for which you can look back and celebrate the Lord.

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