

III. Pride's Cure.

That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him.² It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes.

³ "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked.

"Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. The king said,

"Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him.

Esther 6:1-4

"Haman, what should we do for a man the king delights to honor?" "Let the king's robes be put on that man, and let him be put up on the king's horse, which of course is the position of a conquering king. Let your greatest noble take the position of a slave or a servant, because that person will simply walk along, leading the horse by the reins, through the streets as a kind of herald. That will show how much you delight in that man." "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended." Esther 6:6-10

But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23:12

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Matthew 10:39

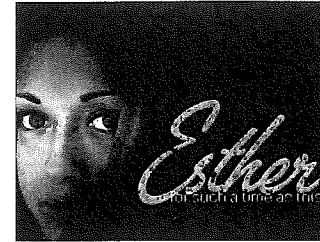
"God made him sin who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

2 Corinthians 5:21

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

John 17:22

**Knowing He had to die for you humbles you.
Knowing He was glad to die for you affirms you infinitely.**



The Bigger the Ego the Harder the Fall Esther 3:1-6 & 6: 1-10

¹...King Xerxes honored Haman and gave him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. ² All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. ³ Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" ⁴ Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. ⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. ⁶ Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.**Continuing on in Chapter 6:**

¹ That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. ² It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. ³ "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. ⁴ The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows he had erected for him. ⁵ His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered. ⁶ When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?"

⁷ So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honor, ⁸ have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'" ¹⁰ "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended."

I. What Pride Is.

"After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman ... elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him." **Esther 3:1,2**

"Calling together his friends and ... his wife, Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth ... and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. [...] 'But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate.'" **Esther 5:10-13**

What can we learn about pride?

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. **1 John 2:16**

Pride is all about the self, what pleases me, what motivates me, what makes me feel better than others. Pride is all about being self-absorbed if you will.

C.S. Lewis: *"Pride is the ruthless, sleepless, unsmiling concentration upon self."*

Tim Keller: *"Pride isn't so much about what you have, rather it's about having more of it than the next person. You may think you're proud of being successful or intelligent, but when others have as much or more than you? You won't be able to celebrate their successes."*

Two forms of pride:

Pride of feeling superior- *"Am I being appreciated? And your answer to that is I'm doing pretty good compared to others."*

Pride of feeling inferior- *It's where you don't like how you look or how you're doing. You're very self-conscious. Yet you're equally as self-absorbed as someone who struggles with superiority pride.*

What is humility? It's not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less.

II. What Pride Does.

"When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes." **Esther 3:5,6**

Then Haman approached King Xerxes and said, "There is a certain race of people scattered through all the provinces of your empire who keep themselves separate from everyone else. Their laws are different from those of any other people, and they refuse to obey the laws of the king. So it is not in the king's interest to let them live." **Esther 3:8**

Dispatches were sent by swift messengers into all the provinces of the empire, giving the order that all Jews—young and old, including women and children—must be killed, slaughtered, and annihilated on a single day. This was scheduled to happen on March 7 of the next year. The property of the Jews would be given to those who killed them. **Esther 3:13**

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. **Proverbs 16:18**

How?

1. Pride makes you a fool.

The superior form makes you overestimate your abilities, and the inferior form makes you resent the people who are above you.

2. Pride makes you evil.

You cannot stay angry and resentful at someone unless you feel either superior or inferior to them in some way.

3. Pride is the one sin that hides itself.

By definition, the more proud you are, the more in its clutches you are, and therefore the less proud you think you are.

4. Religious pride is the worst kind of pride.

Jonathan Edwards: *"To know there is this great, infinite God of holiness and justice does not create humility because either you will try to live up to that God standard and then become a self-righteous Pharisee or you will feel like you can't live up to that standard and you will just feel crushed."*