

THE ENEMY WITHIN

--ESTHER 3:6-15--

INTRODUCTION:

There is an old saying that says, “Never underestimate the power of the enemy!” which simply means that we must understand the strategy of the flesh in its unending battle with the Spirit of God. Paul had learned to live in victory over the enemy within, and like him we must learn to not be ignorant of Satan’s schemes, so that we give him no advantage over us. (2nd Corinthians 2:11) Last week we learned the evil character of Haman the Agagite and that he is the enemy of God, from a people that God declared He would never make peace but that He will have war against from generation to generation. My message ended with Haman filled with rage because Mordecai would not bow down to him or in any way show him the respect he craved.

I. HAMAN’S DISDAIN (Esther 3:6)

- a. In his rage we read that Haman disdained to lay _____ on Mordecai alone.
- b. As a Christian you would never believe that you would _____ God’s influence outright.
- c. How do others around you know that _____ is at work in your life? (Galatians 5:22-23)
- d. It is this _____ which is seen in the things that we do that are represented by Mordecai’s people.

II. HAMAN’S DAY OF DECISION (Esther 3:7)

- a. Verse seven begins by giving us a _____ when all this was taking place.
- b. In this first month of the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, the Pur, that is the _____ was cast before Haman.
- c. This process made it possible for Haman to go to the king and offer him some good _____ and all it requires is that you get rid of these certain people.

- d. Haman knows that if he can get the king to believe this superstition, then he will have succeeded in driving a wedge of _____ into the king’s heart.

III. HAMAN’S DISHONESTY (Esther 3:8-9)

- a. After securing a day through the casting of lots, Haman now _____ the king.
- b. Haman makes it sound as if these people are a _____ to the throne.
- c. Has Haman been _____ to you lately?

IV. HAMAN’S DECREE OF DESTRUCTION (Esther 3:10-15)

- a. Haman’s deception had worked, and the king gave into Haman’s _____ believing that Haman had his best interests in mind.
- b. Nothing can be done in a person’s life without the consent of your _____.
- c. It is also clear from these verses that when we make a decision, we hand the _____ to act to another.
- d. The _____ made by the king in giving his signet ring to Haman allowed Haman to do whatever he wanted.
- e. The whole kingdom is immediately _____ in whatever the king does.
- f. The final step in this program of defeat by the flesh is one of _____.

CONCLUSION:

For many of us this ending phrase is all too familiar. You meant to do right, you tried to do right, you thought that you were making the right decision on the basis of what seemed to be the right thing to do, but in the end, there was nothing but confusion. Many Christians live right here, defeated, deluded, and disappointed, and they don’t know why. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:22-23, “*The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of*

darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!” (Matthew 6:22–23, NASB95) Such darkness in Christian lives is what the Bible calls the reign of sin. The king (your will) is fully under the influence of your evil prime minister (the enemy within). The result is that your kingdom is in confusion, despair, and darkness. The king never meant this to happen, but as long as he does not know the true nature of Haman, he is helpless to correct this condition. For the king to be delivered and for the empire to be delivered, the king must be made aware of the true evil character of Haman.

Now is the time for Mordecai to act. When he acts, we shall fully understand the statement in Galatians 5:17, “*For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*” (Galatians 5:17, NASB95) Is there any hope for deliverance? All hope for deliverance from the enemy within, the subtle sinful flesh is found in that sovereign activity of the Spirit of God in the life of God’s child.