

# It's Time - Living For Jesus In Our Day

Sunday, December 22, 2019

## OVERVIEW

### VIDEO: The Bible Project - Esther

It's Time to stop swimming in cultural currents

It's Time to clothe ourselves with the beauty of Holiness

It's Time to take a stand for what's right

It's Time to understand that everything is written down

It's time for us to understand who our enemy is and how he operates

It's time for us to BELIEVE that we were created to fulfill the purposes of God.

## Esther 5 New International Version (NIV)

### Esther's Request to the King

**5** On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance.**2** When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

**3** Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

**4** "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."

**5** "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks."

So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. **6** As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

**7** Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: **8** If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

## Haman's Rage Against Mordecai

**9** Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai. **10** Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home.

Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, **11** Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. **12** "And that's not all," Haman added. "I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. **13** But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate."

**14** His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits,<sup>[a]</sup> and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself." This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.

### It's time to walk in Humility rather than pride

For me this chapter is about humility and pride. The humility of Esther compared to the pride of Haman. As we dive in, I want to explore 5 area in which we need to learn to walk in humility.

#### 1. In regard to our attitudes

The first thing I notice about humility and pride in this chapter is the difference in attitudes. Do you see it? Esther walks in humility, Haman walks in pride. Esther's demeanor is quiet, calm, confident, unassuming, not pretentious in any way. On the other hand, Haman's attitude is the epitome of an attitude of pride - self-centered, self-serving, self-absorbed, self-consumed, conceited.

Humility begins with our attitude. We can have an attitude of humility or an attitude of pride. And a wrong attitude will take us in wrong directions

#### **Proverbs 29:23 New International Version (NIV)**

**23** Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.

*How is your attitude?*

Paul says it this way in Philippians

**Philippians 2:3-10 New International Version (NIV)**

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: (have this attitude in you which was also in Christ Jesus)

**6** Who, being in very nature[a] God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

**7** rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

**8** And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

**9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

**10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**2. In regard to our requests and expectations**

Notice how humble and unassuming Esther's requests were to the King. On the other hand, we see in Haman the pride of a demanding and uncontended spirit. He said: "all this gives me no satisfaction"

In our relationship with God and others do we ask, or do we demand? Are we humble in our requests, being thankful and grateful for how much we have been given or do we increasingly expect more and expect it now?

**2 Chronicles 7:14 New International Version (NIV)**

**14** if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**Proverbs 22:4 New International Version (NIV)**

**4** Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.

**Luke 14:11 New International Version (NIV)**

**11** For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*This doesn't mean we should not ask, on the contrary, God's word tells us that we are to ask and we are to come before the throne of grace boldly (Hebrews 4:16), but there is a difference between asking and demanding, between coming before the throne in confidence and coming before the throne in prideful expectation*

Humility is grateful for what it is given and realizes that every gift is a blessing from God

**3. In regard to our position**

**1 Peter 5:6 New International Version (NIV)**

**6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

What greater example could we have than that of Jesus and His birth. Though He was eternal God, in humility he gave up his throne to walk among us in human flesh.

Perhaps you feel you have been given a position of lowliness in life or in the circumstances you face. On the other hand, perhaps God has given you great position and opportunity in life. In both cases we must learn to walk in humility.

**James 4:6 New International Version (NIV)**

**6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Here in chapter 5 we see the display of humility and pride, but it is not until chapter 6 that we see the results. And what we learn is this, those who walk in humility will be rewarded, those who walk in pride will be destroyed.

**Psalms 149:4 New International Version (NIV)**

**4** For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

Humility is not weakness it is quiet strength, confidence and trust in the Lord. Pride trusts only in its own strength and will always fail.

#### 4. In regard to what we think we deserve

Those who walk in humility understand that we don't deserve anything; and yet the favor of God blesses us beyond what we could ever imagine or expect. Those who walk in pride falsely believe that they deserve what they have and so much more. Pride demands what it does not deserve.

##### **Proverbs 16:18 New International Version (NIV)**

**18** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Humility is not inactivity. Esther showed us that. For her to remain silent would have had disastrous results

#### 5. In regard to our friends and our adversaries

Pride puffs itself up to look better than it really is. Pride is self-serving. Pride tears others down to make itself look better

Humility is more concerned about others than itself

##### **Ephesians 4:2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

##### **Philippians 2:3-5 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

##### **Mark 9:35 New International Version (NIV)**

**35** Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

And that is why I want to take the next few minutes to close this service by honor those who humbly serve in our church body.