

“Proud Bitterness”

Esther 5:9-13; 6:6

May 21, 2023

I. Haman’s Bitterness – Esther 5:9-13

- A. To be bitter is to be resentful, to be nursing a grudge. Haman’s bitterness toward Mordecai is on full display in Esther 5.
- B. The lamentable results of Haman’s bitterness are visible as well.
- C. Both the fact of Haman’s resentment and its consequences function as warnings to us.
 - 1. Bitterness is a sin.

Ephesians 4:30–32 - ³⁰ *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ³¹ *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* ³² *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

- 2. None of us are immune to bitterness.
- 3. Our lives can become characterized by results similar to what Haman endured.

II. Haman’s Pride – Esther 6:6

- A. Haman’s answer to the king’s question revealed his ridiculous pride and self-importance.
- B. It was that proud sense of entitlement that was fueling Haman’s grudge toward Mordecai.
- C. Haman’s pride functions as a warning to us too.
 - 1. It easy to become puffed up with our own sense of self-importance.
 - 2. This can become a fuel to our lingering resentments and grudges.
- D. We sometimes mask our proud bitterness behind some excuses:
 - 1. Someone wronged me *for real* – Yet we’re still called to forgive (See Eph. 4:31).
 - 2. The person hasn’t said “sorry” – Yet we can still be kind, tenderhearted, and overlooking (See Eph. 4:32 and Pr. 19:11).