

You're so vain, I bet you think this sermon is about you

Sunday: 8/6/2023 – Esther 5&6 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli



"Humble yourself by relying on God to providentially honor you because God opposes the proud."

Overview

In this week's sermon pride was front and center. Pride was presented as something we can be blinded to in our life, even if everyone else can see it. The king's main man Haman had his pride on display throughout the story. We saw Haman filled with joy and gladness when his pride was satisfied and we saw his hatred and wrath when his pride was wounded. In contrast to Haman, Esther enters into the King's court at the opening of the story. Esther's humility enabled her to respond with courageous wisdom. As the narrative moved forward, we saw how Haman's pride was the foundation to his wicked plans.

In the next component of the story we saw God work through both the humility of Esther and the pride of Haman. God used all of the behavior in his story to accomplish his purposes. In this purpose God exalted the humility of Esther and Mordecai while shaming Haman. We walked away from this sermon thankful for God's sovereignty over all things and with the challenge to examine ourselves for the pride we can not see in ourselves.

Sermon Outline:

1. Humility enables you to respond with courageous wisdom (5:1-8)
2. Pride entices you to act in wicked folly (5:9-14)
3. God governs everything to accomplish his purposes (6:1-5)
4. God exalts the humble to shame the proud (6:4-14)

Corroborating Texts

Luke 14:11, 1 Peter 5:5-7, 1 Peter 3:1-4, Proverbs 27:2, Romans 3:23, James 4:1-2, Psalm 7:14-16, Proverbs 16:18, Genesis 12:2-3, Genesis 22:18, Galatians 3:16, Philippians 2:6-11,

Discussion Questions

1. Can you describe a time when you became aware of your pride?
 - a. What or who exposed your pride?
 - b. Is there a verse that resonated in that experience?
2. Haman's wife and wise men encourage gallows be built to appease the wrath of Haman and the next day they, almost prophetically, acknowledged that because Mordecai was Jew he would not be overcome.
 - a. What are the promises to the Jewish people through Abraham?
 - b. What is the significance of singular use of the word "offspring" or "seed" from the sermon?
3. How can you show humility in your home, neighborhood, or workplace? What steps can you take to check your pride?
 - a. how could your humility open opportunities for you to proclaim the truth of Jesus with others?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon or the passage?

Gather – Grow – Practice – Go