

Hidden: Haman
Esther 1-10
January 24, 2021

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. How do you respond when you see someone who demonstrates selfish behavior (i.e. hoarding toilet paper, taking all sale items, filling their plate full before others have had a chance to get their food, etc.). What do you think inclines a person to act this way? Where does this behavior come from?
2. What is the difference between possessing a strong ego and being self-centered?
3. Respond to this statement: To be great is to be selfish.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. As you can, read through the whole book of Esther. Pastor Ryan pointed out that the Jews would read it in entirety during the Festival of Purim and that they would note and react to the comedic elements in the story. What have you picked up in your reading that captures narrative humor?
2. Last week we talked about Queen Vashti's power (and powerlessness). This week, compare and contrast the use of power when it comes to Haman, Mordecai and Esther. How do each view their power and utilize their resources?
3. Chart out Haman's path in this story. What is his background? What is his life like at the beginning? What choices does he make? Where does he go wrong? What happens to him and his family? What is the intended lesson? Does God use Haman (explain your answer)?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference between selfishness and self-care?
2. The character of Haman is used as a comical illustration of selfishness and self-interest, an obvious bad guy for the audience to root against. Pastor Ryan flips this notion on its head by asking us where in our lives are we similar to Haman and his desires. Take time to examine yourselves and think about where we may have also centered ourselves around self interest. If it helps, use the prayer below:

Lord, I humbly confess and lay down before You the Haman of _____ within me that causes me to _____. Lord, have mercy on me and reveal Your spirit of _____ which empowers me to _____. I seal this in the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.