



Courageous Priorities, Part 3
(How much time do you have?)
(Esther 3, NKJV)

September 16, 2018

Priorities Defined: Look at the root word “prior,” it is what takes precedence, rank or position in your life. It is what you determine that should be first in your life.

Series Summary: Once you have courageous conversations, make changes, create new plans and build the wealth you need for your foundation, the next step for you is to set new courageous priorities.

- **In order to set priorities, you should know what your goals are and how much time you have to accomplish those goals.**

Five Questions That Will Help You Identify Your Priorities

1. What is your **definition**? (How do you define things?)
2. What are your **values**? (What are your non-negotiable life rules?)
3. What are your **goals**? (What exactly are you working towards?)
4. What is your **timetable**? (How long do you have?)
5. What are your current **results**? (Have your past priorities worked?)

Last Sermon: We talked about the results of Haman’s priorities

1. **His rage infected** all 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia (**How far has your rage spread?**)
2. **His rage caused the entire community to be hostile toward the Jews**
3. **His rage caused the Jews to panic for one year (Esther 3:12-14)**
4. **His rage forced the Jews to defend themselves and kill 75,000 plus**
5. **Esther 9:16–17 (NKJV): 16 The remainder of the Jews in the king’s provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.**

Note: v17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar (*March*). And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

Big Question Today: How much time do you have to establish the right priorities before you do something you can’t repair?

**I. The Impact of Haman’s Priorities
and the Timeline Challenges It Created**

1. **Haman Started a Clock He Could Not Stop (Esther 3:13)**
 - 13 And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king’s provinces, to **destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar**, and to plunder their possessions. (NKJV)
2. **Haman Started a Nation Grieving He Could Not Stop (Esther 4:3–4)**
 - 4:3 And in every province where the king’s command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.
3. **Haman Started His Family Down a Road He Could Not Stop (They had become violent)**
 - **Esther 5:9–14 v9** So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai. 10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh. 11 ***Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the***

king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.¹² Moreover Haman said, “Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king. ¹³ Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.”¹⁴ **Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.”** And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.

1. **His wife and friends said hang him**
2. **His wife and friends were not stoppers**
3. **His friends started him on this road by pointing out Mordecai (3:4, “they told Haman...”)**

II. The Impact of Haman’s Priorities On His Personal Life (Esther 6:6–14)

1. His Priorities Blinded Him

- **6:6** So Haman came in, and the king asked him, “What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?” Now Haman thought in his heart, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?” ⁷ And Haman answered the king, “For the man whom the king delights to honor, ⁸ let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. ⁹ Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king’s most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!’ ”
- **10** Then the king said to Haman, “Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king’s gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.”¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!”

2. His Priorities Embarrassed Him and Concerned His Family

- **6:12** Afterward Mordecai went back to the king’s gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. ¹³ **When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.”**¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king’s eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

III. The Impact of Esther’s Priorities and Her Tight Timeline

1. Esther Made Israel Her Priority and Risked Her Life and Went to the King (Esther 4:15–17)

- **4:15** Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”¹⁷ So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

2. Esther Made Her People a Priority and Took a Chance and Told the King (Esther 7)

- We will talk more about this next time

Next Time: Did You Get What You Wanted?

Hint: Haman did not get what he wanted.

Question: What are your current results?

Side Question: Did your priorities accomplish your goals?