



**Courageous Priorities, Part 4
(Did You Get What You Wanted?)
(Esther 7, NKVJ)**

September 23, 2018

Review: Priorities Defined: Look at the root word “prior,” It is what takes precedence, rank or position. It is **what you put first in your life.**

Series Summary: Once you have courageous conversations, make changes, create new plans, build the wealth you need, you must establish strong priorities. *Once those priorities are in place the challenge will be to develop unwavering focus. You must stay tuned to the channel you are supposed to be watching in your life. In order to set priorities, you must know what your goals are in life.*

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

Big Question: Are these the results you wanted?

Eight Important Loose Ends About This Story

1. The command to destroy the Jews was in the thirteenth day of the **first month** (Esther 3:12)
2. The command to not destroy the Jews was sent on the **third month** (Silvan) the 23rd day (Esther 8:9)
3. The command to not kill the Jews was ignored by their enemies (Esther 9:1)
4. The Jews defended themselves but did not take the “plunder” (Esther 9:15-16)
5. The Jews celebrated their victory every year (Esther 9:17, 20-24)
6. The Jews named their celebration lots or Purim because Haman cast lots to set the date (3:7)

Question: Do you celebrate the great victories in your life?

7. The ten sons of Haman were hanged like their father (Esther 9:10,13)

Question: Will your children end up with the same results you have in your life?

8. The influence of Mordecai grew with maturity and more balance (Esther 10:3)

Four Important Loose Ends About Mordecai

1. Mordecai’s results changed because he adopted his orphaned cousin and raised her by himself (Esther 2:15)
2. Mordecai’s results changed because he was loyal to leadership (Esther 2:21)
3. Mordecai’s results were changed because he became highly admired (Esther 9:4,10:3)
4. Mordecai’s results changed because he hung around the King’s gate (Esther 2:11,19,21,3:3, 4:2,6,5:13,6:10, eight times he is mentioned hanging around the King gate)

Question: Where are you still hanging around?



Four Lessons From Haman's Results

1. He was confronted by Esther (Your priorities will always become public)

- Esther 7:1–6 (NKJV): 7 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. 2 And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!”³ Then Queen Esther answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. 4 For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king’s loss.”⁵ So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, “**Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?**”⁶ And Esther said, “**The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!**” So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

2. He was misunderstood by the King (His priorities brought his life bad results)

- Esther 7:7–10 (NKJV): 7 Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. 8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, **Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?”**

3. He was hanged alone without his family (What is it like to be alone in this moment?)

- As the word left the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face. 9 Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, “Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke **good** on the king’s behalf, is standing at the house of Haman.”
- **Then the king said, “Hang him on it!”**¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s wrath subsided.

4. His family loses everything (They become servants to the family of Mordecai)

- **Esther 8:1–2 v1** On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. 2 So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and **Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.**

Question: What will happen to your family once you are gone?

Closing: What do I learn from this series so far?

1. Be sure you understand the long-term consequences of making drinking a priority (1:1-2:1)
2. Be careful when you pick fights like Haman and Mordecai did with each other (3:1-6)
3. Be careful how strongly you respond. Haman went too far in his rage (3:6-15)
4. Be careful that you don’t sow a seed that could hurt 75,000 people in years to come (9:16)
5. Be committed to stepping in when you can make a difference like Esther (4:16)
6. **Be careful when people push you into a foolish fight** (Esther 3:4)
7. Be careful that you don’t leave your family with a heavy bill to pay once you are gone. Haman’s family ended up servants of Mordecai (8:2)

Next Week: An out of series sermon called, “The Power of a Moment”

Read Ahead: 2 Kings 5:20-27

Big Thought: In one moment you can change your life forever

Next Series: October 7, 2018 Courageous Focus