



Courageous Priorities, Part 2
(What are your goals?)
(Esther 3, NKJV)

September 9, 2018

Priorities Defined: Look at the root word “prior,” It is what takes precedence, rank or position in your life. It is what you say goes 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 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?)

I. Haman’s Main Goal
(Get Mordacai to Bow)

- Esther 3:1–6 (NKJV): 3 After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. 2 And all the king’s servants who were within the king’s gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. **But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.**
- 3 Then the king’s servants who were within the king’s gate said to Mordecai, “Why do you transgress the king’s command?” 4 Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai’s words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, **Haman was filled with wrath.** 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

Three Questions to Ponder:

1. What was the long-term benefit of getting Mordacai to bow?
2. Why was he **willing to pay millions** for all the Jews to be killed (cp 3:9)
3. Why did this rich guy with all this success care if Mordecai bowed or not?

Question: Have you been distracted by a foolish priority?

Side Question: Why do you even care what they think, do, or say?



II. Mordecai's Main Goal

Note: Mordecai was probably wrong for not bowing (Romans 13:7 NKJV)

- 7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

Question: Do you create unnecessarily difficult seasons?

Note: Haman was wronged but took his anger to an extreme (This was probably a cultural clash)

- **Esther 3:5–6 (NKJV):** v5 When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. 6 But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

III. The Result of Haman's Priorities

1. **His rage infected all 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia (How far has yours 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)**

- 12 Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring. 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 (*or March*), and to plunder their possessions.** 14 A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

Imagine:

- Imagine one year of waiting to die
- Imagine one year of people driving by your house claiming it

4. His rage forced the Jews to defend themselves (Have you done the same thing?)

- **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. 17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

Closing: What are your priorities? What are your goals?

Next Time: How much time do you have to accomplish your goals?