

ADRIAN ROGERS

LEGACY

C O L L E C T I O N



ESTHER

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Esther

1. The Horrible Hanging of Hateful Haman | *Esther*

(Click on any sermon title to go directly to that sermon.)

The Horrible Hanging of Hateful Haman

By Adrian Rogers

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king’s wrath pacified.”

ESTHER 7:10

Outline

Introduction

- I. We Meet Haughty Haman
- II. We Meet Hateful Haman
- III. We Meet Hilarious Haman
- IV. We Meet Heartbroken Haman
- V. We Meet Humiliated Haman
- VI. We Meet Hanging Haman

Conclusion

Introduction

Now, take your Bibles, and turn to the book of Esther—the book of Esther. You find it after the book of Nehemiah. Turn to the book of Esther. I want to speak to you today on “The Horrible Hanging of Hateful Haman.” Here’s the story of a man who ended up on the gallows in a noose that he had prepared for another man. And we’ll begin our reading here in just a moment in chapter 3, beginning in verse 1: *“After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king’s servants, that were in the king’s gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.”* (Esther 3:1–2) Mordecai would not bow. And then, notice in verse 10: *“And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy.”* (Esther 3:10)

Now, already, you’re getting the theme. The story of Esther is a story, number one, of conflict, and number two, of great concern. And over both the conflict and the concern, you’re going to see the providence of God and the working of God. But I want you to listen very carefully, because the conflict that is in the book of Esther is representative of the conflict that will be in your life, because this man Haman, who finally ended up in the noose, was the enemy of God’s people—and, really, the enemy

of God. He was an Agagite; that is, he was a descendant of King Agag, whom God had commanded Saul to utterly destroy. And King Agag was a descendant of the Edomites, who were descendants of Esau. And God said, "I have perpetual warfare with Esau." (Exodus 17:16; Malachi 1:3) Now, Mordecai, on the other hand, was a Jew. And the Jews were God's chosen people, God's people, through whom God wanted to bless the world.

And, you see, here a conflict that is more than simply between two men, Haman and Mordecai. But symbolically, you're seeing a conflict between heaven and hell. Symbolically, you're seeing a conflict between light and darkness. Symbolically, you're seeing a conflict between Christ and Satan. And you are also in that conflict, because you have many devil-inspired enemies and the devil is still on the trail of God's people. I tell folks when they get saved, *if you've never met the devil, it's because you and the devil been going in the same direction. You turn around: you'll meet him.* And you can say *amen* to that, can't you? Brother, you're going to meet the devil. And so many people don't appreciate the fact that we're in a continuing warfare.

I heard about a dog who was always getting in fights with other dogs and always getting beat up. His friend said, "Your dog's not much of a fighter, is he?" He said, "Yeah, he's a good fighter. He's just not a good judge of dogs." Now I think some of us are fighting and losing, because we have underestimated our enemy. We don't understand where the battle is. Oh, we're fighting, fighting, fighting, losing, losing, losing, because we have underestimated the enemy!

This is a story of conflict, and I want you to understand it. Well, I introduced to you, then, Mr. Haman.

I. We Meet Haughty Haman

And, first of all, in verses 1 and 2, you'll meet haughty Haman, because chapter 3, verse 2, says, "*And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.*" (Esther 3:2)

Now, here was this man who loved to be praised. He loved everybody to bow and scrape before him. Now he was a big shot, all right. He was the prime minister of the country at that time that extended all the way up into India and all the way down to Ethiopia. He was the prime minister over all of this. And when he walked down the street, walking his wife's poodle, all of the people would say, "Hello there, Mr. Haman." And they'd bow and bump their forehead on the ground three times and do obeisance to this man. But there was a little Jew. I can just see him now. The Bible doesn't describe him, but I kind of think that he had a bald spot on top of a horseshoe haircut. And his nose and his chin almost met—white whiskers. And when Haman would come walking

down the street, Mordecai would just stand there. He wouldn't bow. He wouldn't budge. He wouldn't bend. And this absolutely galled Haman. Haman could not stand it. His pride was pricked, and his dignity was dented. And the Bible says that he made up his mind that he was going to do something about it.

So, first of all, you meet haughty Haman. Now, Haman, in his haughtiness; Haman, in his pride; Haman, in his strut, is a picture of Satan and all of the followers of Satan. For it was pride that caused Satan to fall; it was pride that infected the heart of Satan. The Bible makes that explicitly clear. He said, *"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."* (Isaiah 14:13) And it is pride that sends sinners to hell. There are some people sitting in this congregation this morning that are going to hell, not because of your liquor drinking, not because of stealing, not because of your dishonesty—you may not do any of those things—but you're going to go to hell because of your abominable pride. *"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him."* (Proverbs 6:16) And number one is *"a proud look."* (Proverbs 6:17)

I know folks that are so proud they can strut sitting down—proud! And they are not about to humble themselves by confessing the Lord Jesus Christ. They're not about to get baptized: "You know, there's something humiliating about being baptized: letting some man dunk you beneath the water." Oh, no, they don't want to do that. If they do get baptized, they want somebody to dip a rosebud in water and sprinkle it on the head or something like that. But they don't want to be baptized as Jesus was baptized: by being immersed. They want to stand on their dignity. They don't want to come down to the front and confess the fact that they are lost and undone and can't do anything about it and that if Jesus Christ doesn't save them they can't be saved. So, as we said before, there are some folks who'd rather come home from church dignified than justified.

Haman had a lot of dignity. But Mordecai dented his dignity. Mordecai wouldn't bow. Mordecai represents people who will never bow before the devil and before his disciples.

II. We Meet Hateful Haman

And so, first of all, we meet haughty Haman. Secondly, we meet hateful Haman, because we'll start reading in verse 3: *"Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment? Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew. And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath."* Haman hated Mordecai. Notice verse 6: *"And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the*

whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.” (Esther 3:3–6) Here is hateful Haman. Not only does he hate Mordecai, but the Bible says he has a hatred for the God’s ancient people, the Jew.

Now we should have known that he was about to get in trouble. Any man who knows his Bible knows a man like this is going to get in trouble, because the Bible says, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall,”* right? (Proverbs 16:18) All right, he’s going to get in trouble there. And also the Bible says those that bless the Jews God is going to bless and those that curse the Jews God is going to curse. (Genesis 12:3; Genesis 27:29) We should have known he was about to end up in the noose. But here he is now becoming a hateful man. But, you see, his hate for God’s people was really his hate for God Himself. Satan has inspired hatred for the Jew, because it is through the Jew that the Word of God was to come; it was through the Jew that the Son of God, the Savior, was to come, according to the prophecies.

And so now he is ready to destroy the Jew. He wants them destroyed. Look in verse 9—Haman goes to the king, and he says, *“If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king’s treasuries.”* (Esther 3:9) He said, “King, I have a plan. There are some people who are against you in the kingdom.” Now they really weren’t: they were law-abiding citizens. But he said, “There are some people against you, and if you let these people be destroyed, then they won’t be a thorn in your side anymore. And, furthermore, I’ll pay you for the privilege of destroying them.”

That sounded pretty good. Oh, Haman had a plan. He was just going to say that it was open season on Jews: anybody who wanted to could kill one. That was exactly as planned. And he said, “Whenever you kill one, you can take all their possessions. Anything they have will be yours. It will be your bounty.” And so the Jews were paying for the privilege of being murdered. They were going to be murdered at their own expense, and they were going to be hunted down like animals. And this was the plan of this wicked, horrible, hateful man that we call hateful Haman. He was full of hate; he was full of vengeance.

I want to tell you, dear friend, that you have some Satan-inspired enemies. And if you think because you stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and because you honor the Lord that the world is going to honor you, you’re wrong. And the reason that some of us don’t face more opposition than we do is that we don’t stand for Jesus Christ like we ought. For the Bible says, *“All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* (2 Timothy 3:12) This world is not going to honor you. This world is not a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ. Beware when all men speak well of you. (Luke 6:26) This world will break your neck if it can. We’re twice-born people in world of once-born people, and we’re going to find ourselves going against the tide most of the time. The gospel of Jesus

Christ starts in a different source. It follows a different course. It is at a different conclusion. And you're going to be thought an odd, a freak, an oddball, a weirdo, when you follow the Lord Jesus Christ. And so here is hateful Haman hating the people of God.

III. We Meet Hilarious Haman

Now, the third thing I want you to notice is hilarious Haman, because he thinks he gets what he wants and he's very happy about it. Notice chapter 3, verse 15: *"The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment..."*—that is, they just delivered all over the empire that the Jews would to be put to death—*"The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed."* (Esther 3:15)

You can imagine: Here are the Jews, knowing that they are threatened with extermination, and here is hateful Haman sitting down with the king, drinking. You see, his problem was like so many today: this gay dog was a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God. What did the sorrow of others mean to him? And how brokenhearted these people were! Look in chapter 4, verse 3: *"And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes,"* (Esther 4:3) which is the way they did when they prayed. Here they are, prostrate before God, and here is Haman and here is the king, drinking and laughing and giggling and guffawing. Hilarious Haman! But God's people were on their face in fasting and prayer.

You can tell that God is about to move, can't you? I tell you, ladies and gentlemen, hell is having a holiday today. And the forces of hell are today in hilarious festivity, and demons are dancing up and down the streets of Memphis. I wonder when God's people are going to get in sackcloth and ashes. I wonder when God's people are going to weep and mourn and cry before the Lord, and say, "O God, if you don't do something, we're doomed!" These people started to pray, and God starts to move.

I'm going to tell you something interesting about the book of Esther: The name of God is not mentioned in the entire book. Did you know that? God's name is not mentioned in the entire book. But over and over again, we see the hand of God, the working of God, the providence of God behind the scenes, for God starts to move. For the Bible says, when we trust the Lord, *"No weapon that is formed against [us] shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee...thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."* (Isaiah 54:17)

Now, Haman is hilarious, but he knows not about the prayer meeting. And there's

something else that spoils his fun. You know, there's something that always spoils the devil's fun: it's a Christian who loves the Lord. I want to make him unhappy, don't you? And there's something that always spoils the sinner's fun—and it's not getting everything that he wants. You see, no matter how much you have, you're going to find out the things of this world cannot satisfy. I don't care what you get: it won't be enough. Your heart was made for Jesus. You were made for God. And until you find God—until you find the Lord—you're never going to find joy, you're never going to find peace, and you're never going to find happiness.

And so I want you to notice something—it's so important. Look in chapter 5 and verse 9. Now it seems like old Haman has everything he wants, but notice in chapter 5 and verse 9: *“Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.”* (Esther 5:9) You see, he had everything, but yet his joy was spoiled.

What had happened was this—I must take just a moment to give you something very, very important: There was a queen in this day who was Jewish. Her name was Esther. And King Ahasuerus had chosen her to be his queen, but he didn't know she was a little Jewish girl. He didn't know that at all. And her uncle—or her stepfather, really—Mordecai said, “Don't tell the king your nationality.” Now, can you imagine the king signing a decree that says, “All the Jews to be put to death”? And, really, he was signing a decree that said the queen was to be put to death, but he didn't know it. Mordecai said, “Keep that our secret. Don't tell—don't tell—anybody this at this particular moment.”

IV. We Meet Heartbroken Haman

Then, the decree went out. Mordecai still won't bow. He won't bend. He won't budge. Haman is hilarious, and hateful, and haughty, and heartbroken, because now ol' Mordecai will not bow, and so Zeresh makes an awful suggestion. Look in chapter 5 and verse 14. Oh, I hope I can weave the plot for you so you can see it all. *“Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet.”* (Esther 5:14)

Now, what banquet is this? Well, here's what had happened. When Esther found out that she and her people were consigned to death, she said to Mordecai, “What can I do, Mordecai?” And Mordecai said, “Esther, you're going to have to go in there. Plea for your people's lives.” And Esther said, “Mordecai, you don't know how things work around here. We haven't gotten to women's lib yet. And I want to tell you something: that nobody walks into the king's office without being invited. If you walk in—I don't care

who it is—me, anybody else—anybody who walks in without being invited will be put to death unless the king's in a good mood and he holds out his scepter.”

“Well,” Mordecai said, “Esther, this is why God has you in the kingdom. ‘Who knows but what thou hast come to the kingdom for such a time is this.’ (Esther 4:14) God put you here for this particular reason. Now you’ve got to do it, because if you don’t, you’re going to be killed anyway.” And then Esther said those great words: *“If I perish, I perish”* (Esther 4:16)—“but here I go.” Her heart beating like a trip hammer, she opens the door, and there’s the king sitting upon the throne. Boy, you talk about putting on the mascara just right! I’m sure she did. But she walked in there and gave the prettiest smile she could. And the king held out his scepter toward her, and she said, “Love, I have a favor I want of you.” And he said, “What is it, sweetheart?” And she said, “Well...” He said, “You can have anything you want.” She said, “I’ll tell you what: I’ll tell you tomorrow. Let’s just have a party, a banquet, and I want just you and Mr. Haman and myself to be there.” The king said, “All right, whatever you want.” And so the decree went out that the queen was going to have a party and just Mr. Haman was going to be there as the special guest of the king and the queen.

Now, suppose Gerald Ford and his wife were going to have a party and you were the only one invited: wouldn’t you tell everybody about it? “Guess what? The President and his wife are going to have a party, and I’m the only one. I’m coming.” Haman was so happy. He told everybody. “Guess what! Guess what! I am the chief guest of honor!” Oh, how thrilled he was! Notice chapter 5 again—how Haman is so excited about it—verse 11: *“And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and the servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself;”—“just me!”—“and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.”* (Esther 5:11–12)

But then, he said, “All of this is no good as long as I see Mordecai. He won’t bow to me.” (Esther 5:13) Well, Zeresh said, “Well, we can fix that,” and that’s where we get back to the verse that I digressed to bring you up to: *“Then”—verse 14—“said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.”* (Esther 5:14)

V. We Meet Humiliated Haman

Thus far we’ve met haughty Haman, hateful Haman, hilarious Haman, heartbroken Haman—because sin never satisfies. Now I want you to meet humiliated Haman,

because something else is about to happen. I said God's people were praying—God's people were praying. And that night when they met for the banquet, Haman is there, and the gallows had been built. And the king is there, and Esther is there, and the king says, "Now we've had a wonderful party." And, boy, you talk about fixing food—Esther fixed everything she knew how to fix, because she knew that the way to a man's heart is through this stomach. She just had a beautiful banquet, and they ate.

And Haman's having a big time thinking about Mordecai hanging from those gallows that he's made, and the king says, "Now, what do you want, Esther? What's the favor you want?" And Esther, being led of the Spirit, said, "I don't want to tell you tonight. Let's have another party tomorrow night and I'll tell you." Now I want you to notice how wonderful God's timing was. She said, "Can we have another party just like this one?" And Haman said, "I sure would like to." He didn't know his own goose was going to be cooked. And then he said, "Yes, I'd like to have another party. I'd be delighted to come again." And so they planned another party the next night.

Well, that night the king had eaten too much Lobster Thermidor, and he couldn't sleep. All night long, he was tossing and turning. He couldn't get any Alka Seltzer; he couldn't get any relief. And he decided he'd do the thing that he thought would put him to sleep—it almost put me to sleep when I was in school—and that's reading history. He said he'd get the history books down. He said, "Bring me the chronicles." And they went up, and out of all of the chronicles—all of the books that were ever there—the reader went and pulled out one particular book, blew dust off of it, and it fell open at one particular place. Now, you think of the thousands of books and everything in the king's library, but this one particular book.

Now, here's the king. He can't sleep. Chapter 6 tells us about it: *"On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king."* And watch it. Now, this is the reason God led Esther to say, "Not tonight, but tomorrow night": *"And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?"* (Esther 6:1–3)

Now, the king discovers that Mordecai saved his life—he didn't know that. There were two thugs who were going to assassinate the king. Mordecai heard about it. Mordecai told Esther. Esther told the guards. The guards had these thugs put to death. And the king had never known that his life was hanging by a brittle thread until that night with indigestion he read the story. And the king said, "Who was that that saved my life?" They said, "A man named Mordecai." "What's been done for him?" "Not a thing in the world." "Well," the king said, "that's not right."

And so the next day he calls in his prime minister, Mr. Haman, and he says, "Mr.

Haman, I want to ask you a question: What ought to be done to a man whom the king wants to honor?" Notice verse 7: *"And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour."* (Esther 6:7) You know who he thought it was, don't you? It was him, he thought. "Oh well, say, what would I like? Now, the king wants to do me an honor. Boy, I'm really getting in good. Last night I just had supper with Esther and the king, and now Old Hashie"—I guess he started calling him Hashie by then—"wants to honor me." And so this is what Haman said: *"Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon..."*—you know, the old devil is always wanting to be crowned and worshipped, isn't he? This is the spirit of the wicked one—*"and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: and let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour."* Haman could hardly wait. Verse 10: *"Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken."* (Esther 6:8–10) And the tide starts to turn.

God's people through much adversity must enter into the kingdom, but God is not going to fail His own. Can you imagine how Haman must have felt? Haman is the one who is leading Mordecai the Jew. Can't you see the old Jew sitting up there on the king's horse with the king's apparel and everybody saying, "Well, hail to Mordecai and Haman"? They're walking in the street—one of the king's nobles leading him through the street. Can you imagine how he must have felt?

I've got something tremendous I want to say here, but I'm not going to say it, because if I do, I won't get stopped. It's in Isaiah 14, and it talks about how Satan one day is going to be humiliated. And let me just say without even turning to it, there's coming a time, the Bible says, when Satan is cast down, that all of the people of the world are going to come and look narrowly upon him, and they're going to say, "Are you the one the caused the nations to tremble? Are you the one? Is this him?" (Isaiah 14:10–20) We're going to be amazed when we see Satan in humiliation. Don't you get the idea that Satan is the lord of hell cracking a whip with a pitchfork, making everybody shovel coal. Brother, he's going to be so humiliated. I tell you, he who was low said, *"I will exalt [myself]."* (Isaiah 14:13) And God said, "You're going to be brought down to the pit, and they're going to look upon you narrowly." (Isaiah 14:15–16)

Here we see haughty Haman as he's been brought down and down and down. And I tell you that Haman's end and Satan's end is the end of everybody who follows the devil. You're following a loser—a loser! Woodrow Wilson said, "I'd rather temporarily fail

with a cause that will ultimately succeed than to temporarily succeed with a cause that will ultimately fail.” I tell you, friend, if you’re on the devil’s side, you’re on the losing side. If you are on Jesus’ side, you’re on the winning side. He cannot fail. He must prevail. I read in a poem a long time ago, “The wave may break in defeat upon the beach, but the tide always wins.” And they weren’t talking about Alabama, either. The tide always wins. God’s tides are moving. And now we see the great surging work of God as the tables start to turn, and one of these days they’re going to turn, and Jesus Christ is going to rule and reign as waters that cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14)

VI. We Meet Hanging Haman

And now we see old Haman as he is humiliated. And so we see the humiliated Haman. But now, finally, I want you to see the hanging Haman, because I said that the title of the message is “The Horrible Hanging of Hateful Haman.” The time for the second banquet has come. Now, Haman does not know that Esther is a Jew, and the king doesn’t know the Esther is a Jew: all they know now is that Mordecai has saved the king’s life. Haman has already accepted the invitation. He has RSVP’d. And so he’s coming—he’s coming—and there’s no way he can get out of it. I imagine he’s got indigestion before he gets there. And so he doesn’t know what’s happening, but he knows things are getting out of control.

And so I’m starting to read in verse 1: *“So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of thy kingdom. Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.”*—now, remember this: he doesn’t know she’s Jewess—*“for we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king’s damage. Then the king Ahasuerus and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?”* Now, about that time, Haman swallowed a turkey bone. “Who is he? Where is he? Who would do such a thing?” You talk about drama! Notice verse 6: *“And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman.”* And here’s an understatement: *“Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.”* (Esther 7:1–6) Oh, Haman is like a spider being trapped in his own web. The Scriptures being fulfilled, judgment is about to fall.

Notice—then somebody comes in and tells the king about the gallows that has been built. And verses 9 and 10: *“And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains said before the*

king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.” Verse 10: “So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king’s wrath pacified.” (Esther 7:9–10)

I don’t know of a better place that we can teach young people the truth of the Bible. “Whatever man sows, that he shall also reap.” (Galatians 6:7) Haman was living high, wide, and handsome. He thought he was getting away with his sin, but he was not. It has been said that “the mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding fine.”

Let me show you a great verse on what we’re talking about. Look, please, in Psalm chapter 9 for a moment, beginning in verse 15: *“The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.”* (Psalm 9:15–16) Never were these words more true than in the life of Haman. Friend, you give a sinner enough rope, he’ll hang himself every time. You may think that you’re getting away with your sin; you may think that God has forgotten; but I tell you, our God is a God of justice, and He’s a God who knows how to deliver His people. Praise God! And He knows how to punish His adversaries.

Conclusion

If I can say anything to our young people on this day, friend, I’d say, “It pays to serve Jesus, it pays every day! It pays every step of the way.” Haman was condemned to die, and he had no one to take his place. I was condemned to die, and Jesus took my place.

*I saw One hanging on a tree,
In agony and blood,
Who fixed His languid eyes on me,
As near His cross I stood.*

—JOHN NEWTON

I’m glad that Jesus took the noose for me.