

## *A Test Case for the Presence of Pride*

### *Esther 3:1-9 & 6:10-14*

Esther is a story of how our faithful God \_\_\_\_\_ and saves His people against all odds. Haman is the antagonist in the story and the perfect illustration of the Biblical proverb, “\_\_\_\_\_ goes before destruction, a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18).

Though a sidekick isn't king or boss, he or she can develop some sense of \_\_\_\_\_ over others. When Mordecai refused to bow because of his faith, Haman was furious. He perfectly illustrates the kind of pride that the Bible identifies as \_\_\_\_\_ and the precursor to a \_\_\_\_\_. We must recognize pride in our own lives to stamp it out with God's help. Haman is our \_\_\_\_\_ for pride.

Haman's pride caused him to build himself up by \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. Here's a good test: Do we tend to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ or put others down. Think about what you have said about other people this morning. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ about your spouse or children, \_\_\_\_\_ of the mistake of a friend or acquaintance, or \_\_\_\_\_? If so, you are exhibiting the sin of pride.

Haman didn't want simply to put others down, he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ them. He wanted to be judge, jury, and executioner. Here's another clear indicator of pride: \_\_\_\_\_. Remember the powerful story about the woman caught in adultery. The scribes and Pharisees wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ her. Jesus showed her \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, think about your attitude toward others who have failed you or offended you in some way. Is your tendency to want to \_\_\_\_\_ and show \_\_\_\_\_ or to become \_\_\_\_\_ and wish for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_? If you tend to desire punishment and not mercy, you are signaling the presence of pride.

God elevated Mordecai, and Haman was hanged on the same gallows he had planned to execute Mordecai—a perfect fulfillment of Jesus' prediction, “In the same way you \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, you will \_\_\_\_\_.” What can we do if we failed the test case regarding pride? \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.