



Personal Conflicts

Text: Esther 3:1-15

Series: Esther, #3

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Theme: **Small personal conflicts can cause big public problems.**

Mordecai's personal conflict with Haman.

1. Haman's background. (1)
2. Haman's position. (1-2)
3. Mordecai's problem with Haman. (2-4)

Haman's public campaign against Mordecai.

1. He generalized and exaggerated the issue. (5-6, 10)
2. He plotted the destruction of all the Jews. (7-15)

The lessons to remember.

1. Personal conflicts rarely, if ever, remain totally personal.
2. It often is difficult to assess our own personal conflicts.
3. Perseverance and faith in God are the believer's guide to viewing and handling conflicts.

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Esther 3. Today focus on Xerxes and Haman. Identify the traces of pride, scheming, indifference and rationalization here. Satan's forces used these to make the unthinkable appear acceptable. The same forces use the same tactics today. Pray for our governments and both God's guidance and sovereign overruling of evil.

Tuesday. While we are no where close to having all the facts we may want, it seems clear that Mordecai had a personal issue with Haman. The results were disastrous. The first "lesson to remember" highlighted on Sunday was that "personal conflicts rarely, if ever, remain totally personal." Whenever you see even the possibility of a conflict, let this truth be in the front of your thoughts and actions.

Wednesday. While God is not mentioned, He was active in the events of this chapter. Read Proverbs 16:33. Haman perhaps thought the eleven months before he could implement his plan were in his favor to prepare, but God was guiding — and we will see more of that as the story unfolds. God is still in control today and will not be thwarted in fulfilling His purposes and keeping His promises.

Thursday. The third "lesson to remember" mentioned on Sunday was that "perseverance and faith are the believers guide to viewing and handling conflicts." How easy it is to either try to run away or jump into the fray ... on our own, with our own resources. Ask God to keep this truth continually before you.

Friday - Saturday. Sunday we plan to look at *learning to lean on God* from 4:1-17. Read through this section in preparation for our time together.