

Read Esther 5:9-14

**9** Haman was a happy man as he left the banquet! But when he saw Mordecai sitting at the palace gate, not standing up or trembling nervously before him, Haman became furious.

**10** However, he restrained himself and went on home. Then Haman gathered together his friends and Zeresh, his wife,

**11** and boasted to them about his great wealth and his many children. He bragged about the honors the king had given him and how he had been promoted over all the other nobles and officials.

**12** Then Haman added, "And that's not all! Queen Esther invited only me and the king himself to the banquet she prepared for us. And she has invited me to dine with her and the king again tomorrow!"

**13** Then he added, "But this is all worth nothing as long as I see Mordecai the Jew just sitting there at the palace gate."

**14** So Haman's wife, Zeresh, and all his friends suggested, "Set up a sharpened pole that stands seventy-five feet tall, and in the morning ask the king to impale Mordecai on it. When this is done, you can go on your merry way to the banquet with the king." This pleased Haman and he ordered the pole set up.

**When Haman left the first banquet what did he see (v. 9)?** He saw Haman sitting there and still refusing to bow down to him.

**What did he think about that?** He was furious but he didn't yell at him. He controlled himself.

**What did Haman do when he got home (vv. 10-11)?** Filled with pride, he got everyone together and bragged about his money and his children. And he bragged about how the King himself had honored him and promoted him over all the other nobles. **What is the only thing we're supposed to brag/boast about?** Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 1:31.

**What else did Haman brag about (v. 12)?** That he was so important that he got invited to a second banquet the queen was having just for him and the King.

**But what else did he say (v. 13)?** The thing that bugs me the most is that Mordecai, the rebel Jew, won't bow down to me.

**What did Haman's wife and friends tell him to do (v. 14)?** On your way to the banquet, get a long sharp pole and ask the King to hang Mordecai on it.

**What did Haman do?** He ordered his servants to get the sharpened pole ready so he could kill Mordecai.