

Story Time - Read the story to the children

Lesson 128: HAMAN AND MORDECAI

ESTHER 2:19 - 3:15

Mordecai was sitting next to the king's gate at the time the young women were gathered together the second time. Esther had still kept it a secret that she was a Jew. She had not told anyone about her family background. This is what Mordecai had told her to do. She still obeyed Mordecai just as she had done when he was taking care of her. During the time Mordecai was sitting next to the king's gate, this happened: Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry with the king. They began to make plans to kill King Xerxes (Also called King Ahaseurus). But Mordecai learned about these plans and told Queen Esther. Then she told the king. She also told him that Mordecai was the one who had learned about the evil plan. Then the report was checked out. It was learned that Mordecai's report was true. The two guards who had planned to kill the king were hanged on a post. All these things were written down in a book of the king's histories in front of the king. After these things happened, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite. The king promoted Haman and gave him a place of honor more important than any of the other leaders. All the king's leaders at the king's gate would bow down and give honor to Haman. This is what the king commanded them to do. But Mordecai refused to bow down or give honor to Haman. Then the king's leaders at the gate asked Mordecai, "Why don't you obey the king's command to bow down to Haman?" Day after day, the king's leaders spoke to Mordecai, but he refused to obey the command to bow down to Haman. So they told Haman about it. They wanted to see what Haman would do about Mordecai. Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. When Haman saw that Mordecai refused to bow down to him or give him honor, he was very angry. Haman had learned that Mordecai was a Jew. But he was not satisfied to kill only Mordecai. He also wanted to find a way to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, in all of Xerxes' kingdom. In the twelfth year of King Xerxes' rule, in the first month, the month of Nisan, Haman threw lots, which were kind of like dice, to choose a special day and month. And the twelfth month, the month of Adar was chosen. (At that time the lot was called "pur.") Then Haman came to King Xerxes and said, "King Xerxes, there is a certain group of people scattered among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom. They keep themselves separate from other people. Their customs are different from those of all other people. And they don't obey the king's laws. It

is not right for the king to allow them to continue to live in your kingdom. "If it pleases the king, I have a suggestion: Give a command to destroy these people. And I will put 750,000 pounds of silver into the king's treasury. This money could be used to pay the men who do these things." So the king took the official ring off his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite. Haman was the enemy of the Jews. Then the king said to Haman, "Keep the money. Do what you want with them." Then on the 13th day of the first month, the king's secretaries were called. They wrote out all of Haman's commands in the language of each province. And they wrote them in the language of each group of people. They wrote to the king's satraps, the governors of the different provinces, and the leaders of the different groups of people. They wrote with the authority of King Xerxes himself, and sealed the commands with the king's own ring. Messengers carried the letters to all the king's provinces. The letters were the king's command to ruin, kill, and completely destroy all the Jews. This meant young people and old people, women, and little children too. The command was to kill all the Jews on a single day. The day was to be the 13th day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. And the command was to take everything that belonged to the Jews. A copy of the letters with the command was to be given as a law. It was to be a law in every province and announced to the people of every nation living in the kingdom. Then everyone would be ready for that day. At the king's command the messengers hurried off. The command was given in the capital city of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was in confusion.

128. HAMAN AND MORDECAI

(ESTHER 2:19 - 3:15)



"Day after day, the king's leaders spoke to Mordecai, but he refused to obey the command to bow down to Haman. So they told Haman about it. They wanted to see what Haman would do about Mordecai. Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew. When Haman saw that Mordecai refused to bow down to him or give him honor, he was very angry. "

ESTHER 3:4-5

128. HAMAN AND MORDECAI

ESTHER 2:19 - 3:15

MEMORY VERSE:

"For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

MATTHEW 4:10

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Esther still did not tell anyone that she was a Jew, just like Mordecai had asked her.
TRUE or FALSE
2. One day Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate and two of the king's servants, Bigthan and Teresh, became angry with the king and planned on killing him, and Mordecai heard them. TRUE or FALSE
3. Mordecai did not tell Queen Esther about Bigthan and Teresh's plans to hurt king Xerxes. TRUE or FALSE
4. Afterward, King Xerxes promoted Haman and gave him a place of honor higher than anyone that was with him. TRUE or FALSE
5. Mordecai always bowed down to Haman because it was the King's command to do it.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down to him, was he happy or mad?
2. What did Haman want to do to all the Jews when he was angry with Mordecai? Did he want to kill them all?
3. What did Haman tell King Xerxes about the Jews? Did he tell him bad things? Like what?
4. What did King Xerxes do with his ring? Did he give it to Haman?
5. What did Haman do with King Xerxes' ring? Did he seal letters with it?
6. What did the letters say? Did it have a command to destroy all the Jews?

Lesson 128 Activity

Act out the Lesson!

Act out the part where Mordecai sees Bigthan and Teresh at the Gate

Parts:

Mordecai

Bigthan

Teresh

Esther

King Xerxes

The rest of the children can be the guards who go and capture Bigthan and Teresh!

Have Mordecai stand nearby while Bigthan and Teresh say how they don't like King Xerxes, and how they think about a plan to kill him.

Then have Mordecai go and tell Esther, and then have Esther go and tell King Xerxes, then have King Xerxes send his guards to go and capture Bigthan and Teresh.

Act out the part where Mordecai refuses to bow down to Haman

Parts:

Mordecai

Three or four children to be King Xerxes' servants

Haman

Have Haman walk by Mordecai, and have the King's servants bow down, but Mordecai doesn't bow down.

Haman doesn't notice this, but after Haman leaves, have the King's servants try to talk to Mordecai to convince him to bow down to Haman because it is the King's commandment. Every time they ask him if he is going to bow down, have Mordecai just cross his arms and say, "No." Do this scene two or three times, then after the third time, have Mordecai go sit down, and have the servants go and tell Haman that Mordecai refuses to bow down to him, and have Haman get very angry.

Act out the part where Haman convinces King Xerxes to send out letters to all the provinces commanding them to destroy the Jews.

Parts:

Haman

King Xerxes

The rest of the children can be captains ready to go out with letters. (use sheets of paper for the letters)

Have Haman go and talk to King Xerxes. Have him tell King Xerxes that these Jews are a lot of people, and they don't obey the King's commands, and that he will give the King a LOT of silver if he will let him pay people to go and kill all the Jews.

Have King Xerxes say, "What? They don't obey my commands? Then keep your money and take my ring – go ahead and do whatever you want with these Jews!"

Then let King Xerxes give Haman a crayon (the ring) and have Haman draw a circle on each piece of paper, roll it up, and give it to one of the other children. Have Haman tell each child to "Go and take this to your land. Make sure all the people read it!"

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to take a stand for the Lord—to obey God rather than man. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.