

Recap of 9/29/19 (Esther 5:1-12):

1. "Sometimes life feels like the book of Esther. God is nowhere to be found. But instead of despairing, we should wait with expectation and look at the opportunities God places us in. When we see them, we should act in faith, trusting that God's presence is filling the pages." (The One Year Study Bible NLT)
2. Though God is often silent—He is behind the scenes working for our good. We must trust that and wait for Him.
3. Haman is leading a lifestyle which believers are warned against in 1 John 2:15-17. He boasted about his many sons, his wealth, and his position. He found his meaning, worth, in those things. Believers are warned "Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from Him." (The Message 1 John 2:16-17). "Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world." (1 John 2:15-16 NLT).
4. "How much of your security rests on your possessions, position, or reputation? God does not intend for you to use such gifts for your own benefit. He asks you to serve Him... Today, think of practical ways you can rely more firmly on the security only God can offer." (365 Life Lessons)
5. Haman was driven by pride. The Bible warns about the dangers of pride. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14)
6. "Humility is the source of all true greatness; pride is ever impatient, ready to be offended. He who thinks nothing is due him, never thinks himself ill-treated." (18th century writer quoted in Wiersbe, With the Word)