

Choosing brave faith

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I. FAITH – THE WAY THAT SEEMS HARD: ESTHER BRAVELY PLANNED TO APPEAL TO THE KING (ESTHER 5:1-8).

- A. Step One: Esther approaches King Xerxes and he extends the golden scepter promising her anything she asks (1-2).
 - God providentially changes hearts of rulers (Proverbs 21:1).
- B. Step Two: Esther patiently delays her request, but invites the King and Haman to a series of two banquets she hosts (3-8).
 - Trusting God requires humble, dependent patience.

II. ANGER – THE WAY THAT FEELS RIGHT: HAMAN ARROGANTLY PLANNED TO EXECUTE MORDECAI (ESTHER 5:9-14).

- A. Haman basks in the glory of being invited to the private royal banquets, but is enraged that Mordecai doesn't kneel (9).
 - Arrogance puts us on an emotional roller-coaster.
- B. Haman bragged to his wife and friends and hatefully complained about Mordecai not kneeling (10-13).
 - Arrogant people blame others for their anger.
 - Arrogant people want others on their emotional roller coaster.
 - Arrogant people attack those who don't honor them.
- C. Haman's wife tries to pacify his anger by suggesting he build gallows to execute Mordecai and he eagerly agrees (14).
 - The desire to retaliate is a sign of unresolved anger.