



# Esther

## Lesson 4

### Esther Chapter 5-6

*Throughout Israel's history, the stark contrast between the nation's prosperity and peace and its decline and unrest was identified by the quality of leadership that was in power at the time. When a wicked person was in power trouble and hardship followed because the people were influenced by the leader. When a righteous king came to power the nation began to return to principles of truth and godliness that led to good for the people. This truth is evident even in Persia with Haman's rise to power. Because of his evil intent and his ability to influence the king, Israel's welfare and existence were in jeopardy.*

*As Jesus says in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." Haman is the thief that is attempting to destroy God's people. But God has other plans for the nation and will use the influence of the potential good leadership He has placed in the king's own house to battle against the enemy's efforts to kill them. Though Esther is in a tentative and vulnerable position without the political power that Haman has, she is the vessel that God will use to upset the evil plans. But it will take faith, conviction, and wisdom to face the difficult trial she will undergo as she confronts the thief face to face.*

### READ ESTHER CHAPTER 5



*"Religious abstinence in Scripture often is accompanied by the putting on of sackcloth and ashes. This self-affliction seems to have as its basic psychology to say to the Deity, 'I am penitent; I am not high and mighty.'" Perhaps also an appeal to the pity of the Deity is involved as well as humbling oneself before God. ~Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia*

1. From the following verses, give some of the situations that led to fasting.

*2 Samuel 12:22*

*1 Kings 21:27-29*

*Judges 20:18-27*





***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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