

## First Pride, Then...

Esther 5

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Esther+5&version=NIV>

***“Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials.” (vs 11)***

What a contrast. As Esther and her people begin a courageous fast in an act of humility and submission to God, Haman is boasting about how wonderful and privileged he is while allowing his anger to get the best of him. It is easy to read through this book and identify with Esther and Mordecai. To read about Haman and think “what an evil jerk; I really don’t like that guy.” Yet if we are honest with ourselves and honest before God, we’ve all had some Haman moments in life and some of us have had Haman-like moments recently. Moments where we compare ourselves to others. Moments where we forget humility and are filled with boastful pride about ourselves.

As the tale of Esther, Mordecai, Haman and the King unfolds, we will see what happens as a result of Haman’s pride. For now though, let pause with pride. It is good to be proud of being a child of God. It is good to have pride in our living into who Christ calls us to be. In short, it is good to boast in Christ. In fact, the apostle Paul says in Galatians 6:14 “May I never boast except in the cross of Christ.” The problem is when we have pride in our own self-reliance and self-accomplishments a part from Christ. When our pride fails to acknowledge that we are nothing without Christ and is instead a pride only in ourselves, in our faulty, sinful flesh and blood. As you experience moments of pride, be reminded of Haman and ask yourself, am I boasting in myself, or am I boasting in Christ and HIS accomplishments through me. It may be hard to answer or know at times so we need others who will hold us responsible and tell us when our pride is sinful. May God guide you in your efforts to boast in Christ alone and to share the journey with one another?