

Esther 2:19-23 (ESV)

Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. 20 Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him.



Esther 2:19-23 (ESV)

21 In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. 22 And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai.



Esther 2:19-23 (ESV)

23 When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.



Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. 2 And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage.



Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

3 Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

4 And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew.



Esther 3:1-6 (ESV)

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. **6** But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.



Understanding Conflict

(Adapted from Beth Moore)

- **Conflict Usually Has a History**

Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite Esther 2:5 (ESV)

Haman the Agagite Esther 3:1



Understanding Conflict

(Adapted from Beth Moore)

- **Conflict Usually Has a History**

But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

1 Samuel 15:9 (ESV)



Understanding Conflict

(Adapted from Beth Moore)

- **Conflict Usually Has a History**

“Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, 18 how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God.

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

(ESV)



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Begins with Disobedience**

The word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. 12 And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.”

1 Samuel 15:10-14 (ESV)



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Begins with Disobedience**

13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord." 14 And Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?"

1 Samuel 15:10-14

(ESV)



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Grows From a Perceived Threat**

And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury.

Esther

3:5

(ESV)

Insecurity is at the heart of every rivalry
– Beth Moore



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Grows From a Perceived Threat**

Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.

2 Corinthians 10:12

(ESV)



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Grows From a Perceived Threat**

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

James 4:1-3 (ESV)



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Spreads the Hate Virus**

Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them..." Esther

3:8-13 (ESV)



Understanding Conflict

- **Conflict Spreads the Hate Virus**

...13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. Esther 3:8-13

(ESV)



Be Prepared for Unreasonable People

(From Peacemaker Ministries)

- **Control Your Tongue**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

- **Seek Godly Advisors**

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)



Be Prepared for Unreasonable People

(From Peacemaker Ministries)

- **Keep Doing What Is Right**

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:12 (ESV)

- **Use the Ultimate Weapon of Focused Love**

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44 (ESV)



Romans 12:17-21 (ESV)

*Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

