

STAY IN THE GATE

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

Est 5:9-13 Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow am I invited unto her also with the king. Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate.

Haman was a deputy of the king, a man who was full of pride and arrogance. He loved his position in the king's palace. He loved having the preeminence over everybody else. He loved to flaunt his position before the entire kingdom and he was ready to crush anybody who dared to defy him. He had a lust for power, control and honor.

A Jew by the name of Mordecai was a thorn in his side. Every day on his way to work, Haman would pass by the king's gate and see Mordecai sitting there. While everybody else would stand and bow and move to the side to let Haman pass by, Mordecai wouldn't bow before him. Mordecai wouldn't give him the respect that he felt he deserved. Mordecai remained seated at the king's gate.

The devil is a lot like Haman. He walks around all over the world, with his chest puffed out with pride, proud of all the sinners living for him. But nothing makes him more mad than to find a Christian who refuses to bow before him. A man or woman or young person who has a made up mind to live for God, regardless of how mad the devil gets or what kind of threat he makes.

If you want to make the devil mad, just stay in the gate! Let him know that every day he passes by you; he is going to find you doing the same thing. Living for God. Serving the king. Spending time in prayer. Lifting up your voice in praise.

Every day we live for God, we are a thorn in the devil's side. Every prayer we pray hinders his work on earth. Every meal we fast puts an ache in his tooth. Every time we walk through the doors of the church, we remind him all over again that we are not serving him and we refuse to bow at his feet.

Stay in the gate! Be faithful to the house of God. Regardless of how you feel. Regardless of what you might be going through. Don't stay home. Stay in the gate. Let the devil know that you have a made up mind to serve the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!