



### 1. GOING DEEPER

- 1) a) What is different about Mordecai's behaviour in this chapter as opposed to the previous one? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) What was the significance of Mordecai's response to Haman's request (not bowing) and what Scripture can you use to support your answer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) What other examples can you find in scripture where someone refused to bow or conform? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2) a) There are at least two other occurrences where persons refused to bow to others based on their obedience to God, what were the results? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ b) Discuss the sequence of the events in each occurrence and highlight any similarities. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3) a) There are two forces at work in the world, how does Haman's actions towards the Jews show this to be true? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) What Scripture can we use to ensure that we are not used as Haman was by the enemy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

1) To what extent would you say that you are confident in God?

I don't believe that God is interested in what I am going through in life

I am confident that God knows and responds but I can be impatient

I fully trust God even when I am in difficult situations

2) What can one do to increase their *confidence* in the Omniscient (all-knowing) God?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. APPLICATION

Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. I will ask \_\_\_\_\_ to hold me *accountable* in this.

**Key Verse**  
Esther 3:2 (ESV)

"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"

# Sermon Main Points




# Sermon Highlights

God is working behind the scenes on your behalf. Because of this, believers should:

- ⚡ Refuse to Bow to Worldly Customs
- ⚡ During times of oppression, have confidence in the Omniscient God

- ⚡ When one refuses to bow, they stand out and is easily noticed by all. It invites others to <sup>1)</sup> Caution you, <sup>2)</sup> Pester you and <sup>3)</sup> Expose you
- ⚡ We must refuse to bow to the voice of the enemy with his distractions when it comes to engaging in spiritual disciplines
- ⚡ The message of God cannot and should not be caged, but that would only happen when we refuse to bow

## 5 Day Study Plan ("Study to show yourself Approved unto God...")

		Inductive Bible Study Method
<b>Day 1</b>	<p><b>Mathew 6:31-32</b> What I learned (observation / interpretation):</p> <p>How I will Respond (application):</p>	<p> <b>Observation</b> (<i>What does the text say?</i>)</p> <p>This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.</p> <p>Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five <i>W's and H</i>: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).</p>
<b>Day 2</b>	<p><b>Ezekiel 11:5</b> What I learned:</p> <p>How I will Respond:</p>	<p> <b>Interpretation</b> (<i>What does the text mean?</i>)</p> <p>Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⚡ What is the <i>main theme</i> and what is the <i>meaning</i> of key words;</li> <li>⚡ Examine <b>cross references</b></li> <li>⚡ Compare <b>translations</b></li> <li>⚡ <b>Summarize</b> the text</li> <li>⚡ <b>Use commentaries</b> (last resort)</li> </ul>
<b>Day 3</b>	<p><b>Psalms 69:5</b> What I learned:</p> <p>How I will Respond:</p>	<p> <b>Application</b> (<i>How should this affect Me?</i>)</p> <p>Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself "<i>How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?</i>"</p>
<b>Day 4</b>	<p><b>Jeremiah 1:5</b> What I learned:</p> <p>How I will Respond:</p>	<p>Seek to identify if there are - <b>Sins</b> to confess; <b>Promises</b> to claim; <b>Examples</b> to follow; <b>Actions</b> to obey or <b>Knowledge</b> to grow in.</p>
<b>Day 5</b>	<p><b>Psalms 139: 1 - 4</b> What I learned:</p> <p>How I will Respond:</p>	

For best results, this content should be read and prepared privately and then discussed in your small group or with family / friends.  
Stop Reading – Start Studying!