

**“Clandestine Enemies”**  
**Esther: Living for God in a Godless Culture (Lesson #3)**  
**(Esther 2:19-3:15)**

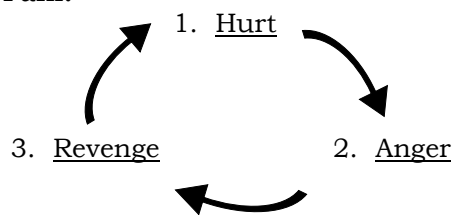
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**1. Watch out! We’ve got clandestine enemies!**

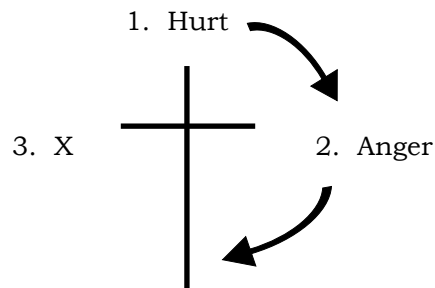
- In Esther 2 and 3, there are 2 secret plots:
  - 1) Bigthana and Teresh plot to kill the king. (2:19-23)
  - 2) Haman plots to kill all the Jews. (3:1-15)
- Christians also have a clandestine enemy: Satan.
- The motive, is: anger and revenge.

**2. The Cycle of Pain:**



**3. How to stop the cycle of pain:**

- Jesus did it on the cross: “Here, I’ll be the last one to hurt. I forgive you. I don’t want to hurt you back.”



- How to stop the cycle of pain in our lives:
  - 1) Accept the love and forgiveness of Christ from the cross.
  - 2) Pass His love and forgiveness on to others. (Ephesians 4:32)