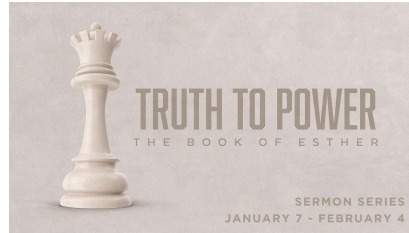


**Hope Presbyterian Church  
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group**



**January 28, 2024**

**“Influence” - #3 in the series Truth to Power: The Book of Esther**

**Texts (NLT):** Esther 3:1-2, 5-6, 8-11, 13; Mark 10:17-22

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider the role of influencers who have gained large followings throughout history - even currently on social media platforms.
  - What examples of current or historical influencers stand out for you?
  - What characteristics of influencers tend to connect most with followers?
3. **Read Esther 3: 1-2.**
  - Why might Xerxes have granted such a high level of authority to Haman?
  - What does Mordecai’s refusal to “bow down or show respect” to Haman tell you about his character?
4. **Read Esther 3: 5-6.**
  - Why did Haman’s offense at Mordecai’s actions provoke his extreme plan to destroy all Jewish subjects in the empire?
  - What are your thoughts about an influencing style that relies on intimidation?
5. **Read Esther 3: 8-11, 13**
  - What arguments does Haman use to persuade Xerxes to approve of his plan to destroy Jews throughout the empire?
  - How and why did his arguments appeal to Xerxes?
6. **Read Mark 10: 17-22.**
  - In what ways do Jesus’s responses to the man seeking eternal life stand in sharp contrast to Haman’s strategies to be an influencer?
  - Why might the man have been unable to accept Jesus’s words of truth and invitation?
7. How can we pray for you?