

BRINGER TOGETHER and the TC's

Greetings and acknowledgements

Just an activist – an activist for various things especially for people's mental wellness and for people's spiritual rights, whether they know they have such rights or not. Deprived by other people. Deprived by themselves. In today's sermon I am advocating for both your mental wellness and your spiritual wellness, as well as the spiritual wellness of the church.

HAMAN (Esther 3:1-6)

6 Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them, if it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administration for the royal treasury."

ESTHER (Esther 4:13-14)

13 Then Esther went this night to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

There is trouble in the land! Caused by the three men that exist around Esther:

- HAMAN** – Creates trouble. He's an activist. Without boundaries. He refuses to give way to Haman's motorcycle.
- MOORDECAI** – Creates trouble for "all" Jews. His ego is hurt. Revenge always gets overboard!
- ESTHER** – Creates trouble by opposing Haman's request to exterminate all Jews. A political move which puts even Queen Esther in jeopardy.

Trouble will come from your own house, your own relatives, your own friends, and from enemies. Jesus: "In this world, you will have trouble." **THE TROUBLE IS NOT THAT THERE IS TROUBLE – THE TROUBLE IS ALWAYS TROUBLE.** The TROUBLE IS HOW YOU DEAL WITH TROUBLE – in our careers, churches, relationships, homes, workplaces...

Our Esther text today is showing us that we can deal with trouble using either the Spiritual Mind or the Unspiritual Mind.

THE UNSPIRITUAL MIND – REACTIVE (TC's borrowed from Ruth)	THE SPIRITUAL MIND – OFFERED (My TC's)
1. Compare (better or proud)	1. Connect (the antidote for better)
2. Compare (the way of the world)	2. Contribute (add value to the team)
3. Conflict (conflict where none)	3. Empower (not walk on your energy)
4. Conspire (in plotting, strategizing)	4. Empower (grow the team spirit)
The wrong type of stronger together – for evil	The right type of stronger together – for good
5. Condemn (gossip, rumors, spy)	5. Empower (relational intelligence)