



BELOW
the surface

15 I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND MYSELF, FOR I WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT I DON'T DO IT. INSTEAD, I DO WHAT I HATE.

18B I WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T. 19 I WANT TO DO WHAT IS GOOD, BUT I DON'T. I DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT IS WRONG, BUT I DO IT ANYWAY.

ROMANS 7:15, 18B-19 NLT

**IF THESE STATEMENTS WERE TRUE FOR PAUL AND
TRUE FOR US, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS AND
HOW DO WE BRING IT BEFORE THE LORD?**



15 AT THE KING'S COMMAND, THE DECREE WENT OUT BY SWIFT MESSENGERS, AND IT WAS ALSO PROCLAIMED IN THE FORTRESS OF SUSA. THEN THE KING AND HAMAN SAT DOWN TO DRINK, BUT THE CITY OF SUSA FELL INTO CONFUSION.

ESTHER 3:15 NLT

13 DISPATCHES WERE SENT BY SWIFT MESSENGERS INTO ALL THE PROVINCES OF THE EMPIRE, GIVING THE ORDER THAT ALL JEWS—YOUNG AND OLD, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN—MUST BE KILLED, SLAUGHTERED, AND ANNIHILATED ON A SINGLE DAY. THIS WAS SCHEDULED TO HAPPEN ON MARCH 7 OF THE NEXT YEAR. THE PROPERTY OF THE JEWS WOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO KILLED THEM.

ESTHER 3:13 NLT

8 THEN HAMAN APPROACHED KING XERXES AND SAID, “THERE IS A CERTAIN RACE OF PEOPLE SCATTERED THROUGH ALL THE PROVINCES OF YOUR EMPIRE WHO KEEP THEMSELVES SEPARATE FROM EVERYONE ELSE. THEIR LAWS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF ANY OTHER PEOPLE, AND THEY REFUSE TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE KING. SO IT IS NOT IN THE KING’S INTEREST TO LET THEM LIVE. 9 IF IT PLEASE THE KING, ISSUE A DECREE THAT THEY BE DESTROYED, AND I WILL GIVE 10,000 LARGE SACKS OF SILVER TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE ROYAL TREASURY.”

ESTHER 3:8-9 NLT

**WHAT IS GOING ON BELOW THE SURFACE IN
HAMAN'S LIFE, HEART, AND EMOTIONS THAT HE
HAS SUCH DISDAIN AND CONTEMPT FOR THE
JEWISH PEOPLE IN THIS STORY?**



**WHERE IS THERE DISDAIN, CONTEMPT, OR
BITTERNESS LIVING IN OUR HEARTS THAT
SOMETIMES SURFACES IN WAYS WE NEVER
EXPECTED?**





**BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE POTHOLE THERE ARE
THINGS GOING ON THAT WE CANNOT SEE. WE JUST
SEE THE SYMPTOM OF A GREATER PROBLEM.**



2 ALL THE KING'S OFFICIALS WOULD BOW DOWN BEFORE HAMAN TO SHOW HIM RESPECT WHENEVER HE PASSED BY, FOR SO THE KING HAD COMMANDED. BUT MORDECAI REFUSED TO BOW DOWN OR SHOW HIM RESPECT. 3 THEN THE PALACE OFFICIALS AT THE KING'S GATE ASKED MORDECAI, "WHY ARE YOU DISOBEYING THE KING'S COMMAND?" 4 THEY SPOKE TO HIM DAY AFTER DAY, BUT STILL HE REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDER. SO THEY SPOKE TO HAMAN ABOUT THIS TO SEE IF HE WOULD TOLERATE MORDECAI'S CONDUCT, SINCE MORDECAI HAD TOLD THEM HE WAS A JEW.

ESTHER 3:2-6 NLT

**5 WHEN HAMAN SAW THAT MORDECAI WOULD NOT BOW
DOWN OR SHOW HIM RESPECT, HE WAS FILLED WITH RAGE. 6 HE
HAD LEARNED OF MORDECAI'S NATIONALITY, SO HE DECIDED IT
WAS NOT ENOUGH TO LAY HANDS ON MORDECAI ALONE. INSTEAD,
HE LOOKED FOR A WAY TO DESTROY ALL THE JEWS THROUGHOUT
THE ENTIRE EMPIRE OF XERXES.**

ESTHER 3:2-6 NLT





**WHAT CAN CAUSE THE POTHOLES AND SINKHOLES
IN OUR LIVES?**

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- PAST EXPERIENCES

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- PAST EXPERIENCES

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- SINFUL PATTERNS

- DISAPPOINTMENTS

**WHAT ARE THE POTHOLES IN YOUR
LIFE?**



**GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH
TO FILL THE POTHOLES AND THE SINKHOLES IN OUR
LIVES.**



21 I HAVE DISCOVERED THIS PRINCIPLE OF LIFE—THAT WHEN I WANT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, I INEVITABLY DO WHAT IS WRONG. 22 I LOVE GOD'S LAW WITH ALL MY HEART. 23 BUT THERE IS ANOTHER POWER WITHIN ME THAT IS AT WAR WITH MY MIND. THIS POWER MAKES ME A SLAVE TO THE SIN THAT IS STILL WITHIN ME. 24 OH, WHAT A MISERABLE PERSON I AM! WHO WILL FREE ME FROM THIS LIFE THAT IS DOMINATED BY SIN AND DEATH? 25 THANK GOD! THE ANSWER IS IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. SO YOU SEE HOW IT IS: IN MY MIND I REALLY WANT TO OBEY GOD'S LAW, BUT BECAUSE OF MY SINFUL NATURE I AM A SLAVE TO SIN.

ROMANS 7:21-25 NLT

20 GOD'S LAW WAS GIVEN SO THAT ALL PEOPLE COULD SEE HOW SINFUL THEY WERE. BUT AS PEOPLE SINNED MORE AND MORE, GOD'S WONDERFUL GRACE BECAME MORE ABUNDANT.

ROMANS 5:20 NLT

**2 AND BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO HIM, THE POWER OF
THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT HAS FREED YOU FROM THE
POWER OF SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH.**

ROMANS 8:2 NLT

**INVITE GOD TO WORK ON WHAT IS BELOW THE
SURFACE OF YOUR LIFE.**

