

It comes back to story

Esther

Week 7
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Self Importance (Esther Chapter 3)

INTRODUCTION

Self importance is having an exaggerated opinion of yourself and it effects everyone. Some people show it outwardly and their lives become about boasting, others keep it buried deep inside but become secretly resentful when others are recognized while they are not.

DISCUSSION

In what ways do you think self importance effects our world today (big and small ways)?

EXPLANATION

How has your self importance (ego) lead to negative consequences in your life?

Have you ever met someone who has been consumed by their own victimhood?

What did that look like?

How can someone's pride keep them from forgiveness and grace of others?

Has this ever happened to you?

APPLICATION

How would we live if the condition of our souls were worn on the outside instead of the inside? (*If our physical appearance reflected our souls*).

How often do you forget Jesus in your life and live as if you are your own source of strength?

How does that work out for you?

How often do you extend to others (even those who drive you crazy) the same grace that God extended to you in the person of Christ?

How would your relationships be different if you did extend that grace?

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1 Corinthians 4:16
1 Samuel 15:7-8
Genesis 25:22-26
Genesis 25:21
Genesis 36:12

Esther 2:5
1 Samuel 9:1-2
1 Samuel 15:7-8
Corinthians 4:16
Deuteronomy 25:17-19

Week 7 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



Self Importance (Esther Chapter 3)

2 Corinthians 4:16 *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."*

Self importance is having an exaggerated opinion of yourself and it effects everyone. Some people show it outwardly and their lives become about boasting, others keep it buried deep inside but become secretly resentful when others are recognized while they are not.

Esther 3:1-2 (Pretense)

Though Haman worked in, and was part of, the Persian government, that did not make him truly a Persian; Mordecai was a Jew and there was a whole back story to how much they disliked each other. Our pasts have an intense way of shaping our futures as we find it very difficult to let go and move forward into the areas God calls us.

Esther 3:3-6 (Ego)

Haman, in the story, is an egomaniac...just like us. He is more concerned about his image and getting someone else to see him as important, then doing what is right. This is like us in the fact that when someone hurts us we want them to hurt as well. Haman is all about his image (outer self), at the cost of his soul.

When we lose focus of God and divert our attention onto ourselves, we begin to lose that which we were created for. We are beings who will never cease to exist and God is constantly shaping our inward character into something new, unfortunately we tend to fight Him the entire time trying to force ourselves into something dark.

Esther 3:7-14 (The Decree)

Over and over scripture will remind us that we are not righteous; no matter how good you think you are, you are not good, only God is good. When you think you are good it is because you compare yourself with other people who are not "good" which leads to pride.

God takes all of our own personal actions of evil, self-centeredness and pain and finds miraculous ways to change them into something that can be used for His glory and our good. God is the only one who can take all the evil that we have perpetrated on others, and the evil that has been perpetrated on us, to make us into the type of people

we were always supposed to be. We are called to let go of the evil done to us so we can become the type of people God intends for us to be. This is a concept that is repeated over and over throughout all scripture.

We are called to forget what brings us bitterness while we are told to remember God. When we forget God and remember the pain it is the exact opposite of all that God says to do.

Esther 3:15 (The Bewilderment)

The people of Susa did not share Haman's passionate anti-Semitism, the entire city was bewildered by what was to take place. We seem to be able to only focus on something that has caused us great harm and interpret all of life in regard to that moment. We remember the anger and pain and forget the joy, love, and connection that we should all share with one another and our creator.

The only way to do that is through the redeeming life of Christ...our death/His life, our sin/His grace...none of us are innocent but we can all be redeemed.

