

It comes back to story

Esther

Week 12
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

God Cares for His People (Esther 8)

INTRODUCTION

God has called and given us the strength to be a people about His mission. That mission loves what God loves, honors what God honors, and follows in the paths that God lays out for us. This is lived in very practical ways of husbands loving their wives, wives respecting husbands, parents raising kids, employees and employers treating each other with dignity and respect. But fighting against our true mission, is a side mission that is always calling us away from God and into complacency (a shadow mission).

DISCUSSION

What are the things that tug on people's hearts to abandon the mission God has for them and settle for something else?

EXPLANATION

How hard is it for you to trust God's faithfulness?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you knew God placed you somewhere for "a moment such as this?"

Have you ever trusted God in something, even though everything around you told you not to, and you found a great and deep strength because of it?

APPLICATION

What does the story of Esther speak to you about your life and mission that God calls you to?

How can the encouragement that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin, helped in times when we want to run from our mission?

How can you make God's mission more at front of your life rather than when you have time to fit it in?



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Genesis 4:7
Esther 1:10-12
Esther 2:4
Esther 4:14
Esther 4:16

Esther 5:3
Esther 5:11-14
Esther 5:7-6
Esther 8:1-17
Hebrews 4:15

Matthew 4
Matthew 16:21-23
Mark 14:36

Week 12 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



God Cares for His People (Esther 8)

Genesis 4:7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

God has called and given us the strength to be a people about His mission. That mission loves what God loves, honors what God honors, and follows in the paths that God lays out for us. This is lived in very practical ways of husbands loving their wives, wives respecting husbands, parents raising kids, employees and employers treating each other with dignity and respect. But fighting against our true mission, is a side mission that is always calling us away from God and into complacency (a shadow mission).

The book of Esther is, among other things, a book of missions and shadow missions and how they are woven into the great mission of God. Xerxes is an ostentatious king who wants to show off his greatness but has no inner strength of character and constantly needs other people to make up his mind. A king's mission should be to govern with grace and fairness (justice and righteousness) but Xerxes governs the opposite way altogether.

Esther is a young Jewish girl, adopted and raised by her cousin, Mordecai. We are not told what Esther's dreams for her life had been, but, whatever dreams she had had for her life had been interrupted and she found her mission. Safety, security, fame, and attractiveness were not her mission. Her mission was to be part of God's plan to redeem the world. And so it is no accident that she was where she was.

As an advisor, Haman's mission should have been to help the king with the favor of his people, but he went the other way and his mission became more: more wealth, more power, more recognition.

Esther 8 (How it played out).

WHAT DOES THIS STORY HAVE TO TELL US ABOUT OUR LIFE AND ULTIMATELY OUR MISSIONS?

- Like Esther, where you are today is no accident.
- We are too often like Haman and use our position or comfort to seek self-idolatry, shallow pleasure and cruelty.
- We all need a Mordecai - If Esther had not had a Mordecai, perhaps she never would have understood her mission.

Esther did not do it alone.

Esther's story reminds us that there is a law that is unalterable; there is a will that will not be turned.

- How is it that of all the women in the empire, a Jewish girl named Esther became queen?
- How is it that of all the people in the empire, Mordecai was the one who saved the king from assassination?
- How is it that the king should have insomnia on the very night Haman had built a gallows for Mordecai?
- How is it that of all stories, the one read to the king was of Mordecai saving his life?
- How is it that Haman, the scheming murderer, became victim of his own schemes and that Mordecai, his intended victim, became instead his replacement?

Even in exile, God is present. Even in your life God is present.

