

# Not so LITTLE WOMEN



## Week 8: ESTHER Today's Verses:

ESTHER 4:16  
ESTHER 2:2  
ESTHER 2:4  
ESTHER 2:10  
ESTHER 4:14

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read: ACTS 17:24-31

### Ask/Discuss:

- What did you learn about God in this passage/message?
- What did you learn about yourself/humanity in this passage/message?
- How can we better reflect Jesus together as we live in diverse community?
- How do you feel led to foster healthy, Gospel-centered community this week?

## Sermon Recap: ESTHER

When we see things that look sexist or misogynistic in the Bible, we must understand that those things came about because of the Fall. Rather than a reflection of God's heart/character, such things reflect the damage of sin in our world and our own rebellion against God. Misogyny is a distortion of God's original intent and design. Therefore, it's important to understand God's redemptive work, as opposed to blaming Him for the faults of sinful people.

The book of Esther is meant to show God's providential care of His people. Providence is *"the foreseeing care and guidance of God over the creatures of the earth."* God is not specifically mentioned in Esther, and the absence of His mention is especially striking.

**Why does Esther never mention God?** It is a **powerful reminder** that God's people sometimes fail to consult Him prior to acting and do things that are contrary to His will, but that does not mean that God is absent. The real message of Esther might be that God's people are prone to use the same means as "ungodly people" for achieving their goals rather than **take a bold step in faith that God will work out His purposes.** Far from not showing God in the book, Esther implicitly shows God's providential care of His people.

- **What do we learn?** – How we begin is not how we have to end and we are to trust God in the world by living for Him and His glory in whatever "palace" He has placed us.

Esther got off to a horrible start, but the end of her story shows us how God stayed with her and brought transformation—even when she forgot Him. God is patient with her and grows her into a woman of maturity. We should be encouraged by this, as God intends to use all of us for His work in the world.

The most foundational thing the Scriptures teach is that our relationship with God is broken. Similarly, our world needs to be healed because our relationships with each other are broken. How do you heal that? We don't, but God does in the Gospel. We must understand that we were all created by God and God gave us everything we have. We owe Him everything.

**Esther saved her people in two ways: identification and mediation.** She identified with her people and said, "If I perish, I'll perish." Because she identified with them, she could mediate on their behalf. She went before the throne of power, and because she received favor there, that favor was imputed to her people. Esther points to Jesus, who has both identified with and mediated for us.