

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Esther 3 & 4. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging/encouraging? What strikes you as you read?
2. What do you do when something you want is denied you or out of your capacity to achieve or acquire it? Re-read Esther 2:21-23. What do you think should have happened to Mordecai as a result of his actions? What happened instead (3:1-2)?
3. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-9. The roots of the discord between Mordecai & Haman lie in the animosity between the Israelites & Amalekites. Why will Mordecai not bow to Haman? Given what has transpired historically between these two peoples, why does Haman want to kill not just Mordecai but *ALL* the Jews?
4. How would you have reacted to Mordecai's defiance in refusing to bow to Haman? (vss 3-4) In conflicts of conscience, how do you respond?
5. Evil always corrupts or inverts that which is true & good. How did Haman describe the Jews to King Xerxes in verses 7 & 8? What is missing from his description? Why does that matter?
6. How did Haman try to sweeten the deal for the king to destroy these people? Does that seem to have mattered to Xerxes? Why?
7. Read Proverbs 6:16-19. What do you make of the strong language in this Proverb? How does Haman stack up against this list?
8. Why does the city react so strongly to the decree? Compare this with Mt 2:3. When a brutal king is upset what seems to be the result? To what do you attribute this sort of outcome?
9. When Mordecai hears the edict, he tears his clothes & dresses himself in sackcloth & ashes; the attire of those who mourn or are in repentance. What else does he do? What can Mordecai's response to injustice & evil teach us about our own?
10. What does Esther's initial response in 4:11 tell us about what she was feeling? What does Mordecai's response in verse 14 tell us about his faith in God? How does Esther's response change in verse 16?
11. How do you see spiritual warfare playing out in these chapters? How is the steadfast integrity & wisdom of Mordecai & Esther in their greatest moment of crisis & grief a challenge & an encouragement for you when you face a moral spiritual choice?
12. In what ways can you see that the Lord has placed you exactly where He wants you? Read Luke 9:23-24. What things is Jesus calling you to die to so that you can be wholly given over to his purposes for the world around you?

Living Water Fellowship

10th Sunday in Pentecost – 14th August 2022

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION REVIVAL ANTHEM (REND COLLECTIVE) -- CCL Licence 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

SONG: As the Deer (AT 206)

BIBLE PRESENTATION: Esther 3 & 4

FAITH CHAT:

1. What do you think Mordecai meant when he suggested Esther was "made queen for just such a time as this"?
2. Share a time when you were "the right person at the right time."

THE MESSAGE: GOD'S SILENT SOVEREIGNTY: WHEN POWER CORRUPTS

OFFERING SONG: How Great Thou Art (LHS 881)

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion: VIDEO – JERUSALEM (CITYALIGHT) -- CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God, the Father grants his power for your life with him every day.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: May the Lord Bless & Keep You (AT 685)

SHOW HIS LOVE