

Esther - Week 6

Lessons We Learn

Esther 2:15 When the turn came for Esther (the girl Mordecai had adopted, the daughter of his uncle Abihail) to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the harem, suggested. And Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her. 16 She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. 17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18 And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

What are the truths we can draw from the first 5 lessons?

1. Poor choices will have **consequences**.
 - I believe God will use **humility** to teach us the dependence we need to learn.
 - Repentance without **repairing** comes short of God's perfect plan for us.
2. We need to seek counsel that fuels our **faith** rather than our flesh.
 - Satan wants our flesh to **rule** our lives so that the life of Christ is made seemingly unavailable because of choices.
 - Satan's use of hate keeps people from any logical, **reasonable** conclusion about what they are thinking.
3. The best advice or plans the world can give us will not meet our deepest **needs**.
 - Xerxes was a king with power who ruled for his **pleasure**, not his people. Sin is seeking substitutes for God.
 - Why did Mordecai keep her being a Jew a secret? Jews of that day were probably considered **inferior**.
4. God will take **painful** situations and turn them into blessings.
 - **Flaws** and faithlessness can be turned to blessings if we allow God to make the changes, He desires to make in us.
5. God is still working in **uncertain** times.
 - God always fulfills His purpose, and His plans are not going to be hindered by **carnal** or secular leaders.

- Again, God's **purpose** cannot be overcome by sinful man. It may be delayed, but never overcome.
- God applies grace not just in the **short** term; He sees the long term in our lives.

6. God's people are not excluded from **positions** of authority just because they don't fit into today's society.

- In choosing a new wife, Xerxes the King sought a beautiful, **pure** bride. Jesus made us a beautiful, pure bride.

It's Now Esther's Time

- In all this she found **favor** with the help and with the king.
- How? There is something to be said for living a **contented** life.
- Even the other **women** liked her.
- Esther was not just chosen by the king, he loved her, and she was used to teach the king **kindness**.

What can we apply to our own lives?

1. God gives us more grace than the King gave Vashti.
2. Without God's grace and **intervention**, we would all act like the king. If it were not for Christ, our actions would be like the king's--sinful and **destructive**.
3. When **accountability** is absent in our lives, rebellion will prevail over repentance.
4. When our own **narcissism** gets a bit out of control, don't be surprised at how God can use whatever to humble us.

Final Thoughts:

When God does humble us, it's the greatest **picture** of His grace for us to learn from.