

Life Group Discussion Questions

April 22, 2012

Series: Esther

Sermon Topic: A Lucky Day - Esther 3 & 4 - Dr. Matt Cassidy

Introduction: In our 2nd week of our 5 week series on the book of Esther, Matt led us through chapters 3 & 4 where we were introduced to Haman the Agagite, his motivation for seeking the destruction of the Jews and Esther's transformative response to an impossible situation.

Sermon Questions:

1. Read Esther chapters 3 & 4 and recall the sermon and historical context Matt presented that sets the stage for this great story. Share with your group any key learnings or reflections that you came away with and how this story of old has become new again in your life? Share how you are seeing God sovereignly work in this story and if you can see Him working in a similar way in your life today. Could it be that God has set you up for "such a time as this?"
2. Esther found herself between a rock and a hard place, or more literally between approaching King Xerxes uninvited and risk "getting him mad" or keeping silent and found to be a "Jew" and sharing in their destruction by Haman. It was this environment along with Mordecai's tough love that created a transformational change in Esther's character. Have you been in a similar situation, between a rock and a hard place, and found character transformation from the tough love of others that made you trust God and walk in faith? Share your experience with your group.
3. Or have you been in Mordecai's place, watching someone you love... a family member, a friend or fellow Christian be placed in an impossible situation, between a rock and a hard place? How did you respond? Like Mordecai, seeing the bigger plan of God and love them through with tough love; or unlike Mordecai, seeing the immediate smaller situation and providing a way out and getting in God's way for true character transformation? Share your experience and lessons learned with your group and the ultimate outcome...character transformation or not?
4. How many times have you almost died? That's right, Matt asked us to recall and share with our groups a time that we almost died? Ask yourself, why did I live through that event? What purpose do you think God had for allowing you to experience a "near death" experience vs. not having it all? Really...if God planned for you to live through it, why experience it at all? Could it be that God was sending you a "wake up call" to evoke change? Share with your group your near death experience and any change that God created in you through "waking up" to His bigger purpose for your life.

