

Making it Personal



1. Have you ever been a target of ethnic hatred or discrimination? Do you believe that God can heal us from the evils of racism and discrimination?

2. How does the story of Esther help us in understanding how to trust God when situations appear hopeless and beyond our control?

Next Week – Part 3 of our Series on the Book of Esther

Reversal – Esther Chapters 5-7

In these chapters, the tension comes to a head. The die has been cast and the fate of the Jews hangs in the balance. If there was ever a time for God to show up, now would be the time.

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SERMON NOTES



Collateral Enemy
Esther Chs 3-4
Esther: When the Time is Right – Part 2
February 27, 2022

Life Group Study Notes



Series Summary – *Esther: When the Time is Right* (4 Part Series)

The Book of Esther recounts a time in the history of Israel when God providentially worked to protect his people. Though his name is never mentioned, the Lord is the ultimate hero in a book that recounts the grand story of redemption and hope. A story that holds promise for our world today.

This Week’s Message – *Collateral Enemy*

Ethnic hatred and discrimination have plagued humanity for centuries. In these chapters the Jews are targeted for destruction, and the weight of the matter falls on Esther.

Study – Discovering What the Bible Says



1. What was one major takeaway from last week’s study? (Hint: Esther Chs. 1-2 with Esther replacing Vashti as queen”)
2. As a reminder, what are the four areas of God’s faithfulness that we find in the Book of Esther?

Read Esther Chapters 3-4 (Best to read sections prior to group study)

3. We were introduced to the themes of power and hubris (pride) in chapters 1 and 2. How do those themes continue in chapters 3 and 4?

4. What is the significance of Haman being an Agagite? How is Mordecai’s lineage a potential reason for the animosity between the two?
5. At the heart of Haman’s plot is his hatred of the Jewish people, illustrating the evil of anti-Semitism. In a world where discrimination and ethnic strife continues, how can we “heal the world?” Lastly, is it even possible to heal the world without healing ourselves first?
6. Mordecai’s reply to Esther in 4:13-14 is deemed by many to be the pivotal moment in the entire book. How do these verses affirm the providential working of God in the story of Esther?
7. The closing verses of chapter 4 (15-17), become a transition of leadership from Mordecai to Esther. How do these verses compare to Daniel 3 and the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (Hint, see vss. 16-18)
8. What two points were given in the message concerning “Turning Points and Crisis Situations?”
 - a. _____ becomes the first recourse
 - b. Crisis demands an answer to the question, _____?
9. Are there any other comments or lessons from the message or subject you would like to discuss?