



June 27, 2021

Esther Esther 1-10

One king chose her for her beauty. The King of Kings chose her for her heart.

“The character of any person’s life is not shaped by two or three grand, big moments of life. A person’s character is formed in ten thousand little, mundane moments of everyday life. It’s the character that is formed in those little moments of life that determines how you think and respond in the few big moments of life that you encounter.”

- New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional by Paul David Tripp

How we treat others impacts our influence in their lives.

Big Idea: Pursuing The Good Life will keep you from pursuing The God Life.

“The book of Esther teaches us that believers can serve God in the most difficult situations by being faithful to God and to each other. Christians today can be very naïve when they say, “I couldn’t possibly work in this government” or “There is no way a believer can work in this business.” We make such statements because we think there is just too much unrighteousness in the world, so we have to retreat from it.

But if we are tempted to think this way, consider the examples that Scripture gives us. Ahab is wicked and weak, and Jezebel is wicked and utterly ruthless; yet Obadiah works for them as their right-hand man and faithfully serves the Lord as he does his work. Or we read about Daniel serving Nebuchadnezzar, a brutal tyrant who thinks of himself as having divine majesty and authority. In this study we read about Esther having to be faithful to God and to her people by becoming one of a vast number of concubines and then a favored member of a ruthless and self-centered emperor’s harem and finally the queen of this great kingdom and the bride of its ruler.

The Scriptures are completely realistic about the difficulties we believers face as we live out our faith in a broken and sinful world, about the trials that come when we work and serve in a society that does not honor God. But Christians are never told to opt out, as if it is too hard for us to live in the world. The Bible teaches us that God’s people can serve him and each other faithfully, even in times of great wickedness.”

-- Through His Eyes: God's Perspective on Women in the Bible by Jerram Barrs

Memory Verse: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” - Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

Other Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34; Psalm 84:11; Proverbs 3:4, 34; Ecclesiastes 10:12; 1 Samuel 16:7; John 13:34; 1 John 4:11; Matthew 7:12; Leviticus 19:18

Further Study:

Read: Esther 1-10 in your group or with at least one other person.

1. Have someone read it while everyone reads along.
2. Have someone else read it while everyone else listens.
3. Have someone recount the text from memory in their own words.

Discuss:

1. What does the passage reveal about God?
2. What does the passage reveal about humanity?

Act:

1. If this passage is from God, what should change about how you live?
2. Who needs to hear the truth of this Scripture that you can share it with this week? Identify a time this week when you might have the opportunity to share with them.