



Esther #5: Summoned to Serve

August 31 & September 1, 2024

Esther Chapters 6-9

Opener:

Reflect on a time in your life when God's "perfect timing" was known only in hindsight.

Go Deeper:

1. Esther finally asks the king to save the Jews. Given Esther's difficult upbringing, how hard do you think it was for her to ask for something that wasn't solely for her benefit?
 2. Esther revealed her true ethnic background to the king. How else might the king have responded upon finding out his queen was not Persian?
 3. Once the king identifies the evil Haman, he is quickly sentenced to death. How does God see evil in the world? Read these passages to see how God views grief – Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 23:37, Luke 15:7-10.
 4. Do you think Mordecai's background as a government official helped him write the new edict? Is it possible that Mordecai was also "born for such a time as this?"
 5. Chapter 9 reveals the actions of the new edict. Would you label their actions as vengeful? Why don't they take the plunder?
-

Live It:

1. Can you think of a time when you thought of what would be best for another person, with no concern for yourself whatsoever? How can we move from thinking about what is helpful for others to taking the steps that will help them?
2. Have you ever been ashamed to be known as a Christian when around other people? How can we overcome the temptation to cower back from society and live into the promise that we are God's children?
3. Evil exists everywhere in our world. How do we confront evil societal norms today without alienating relationships with those who need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. Reflect on your own life. How has God been working to prepare you to share His Word of promise with someone else?
5. Consider your place in life today. How can you alter your mindset so that God can use your ordinary life to change someone else's life through the promise of Jesus Christ?



GOD TIME:

Daily Bible Readings (September 1-7)

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun: | Genesis 1:1-19 | God Creates the World |
| Mon: | Genesis 1:20-31 | Creation of Animals & Man |
| Tues: | Genesis 2:1-4a | God Blesses the Sabbath |
| Wed: | Genesis 2:4b-14 | Another Account of Creation |
| Thurs: | Genesis 2:15-25 | God Creates a Partner |
| Fri: | Genesis 3:1-7 | Breaking God's Rule |
| Sat: | Genesis 3:8-24 | Consequences |

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

