

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Esther 2:19-3:15

Ice Breaker: What is an evidence of grace you have seen this week?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the context of Esther 2-3? What happened in chapters 1-2? Who are the main characters and what do we know about them?
2. **Read Esther 2:19-23:** What is special about the setting “at the king’s gate”? What does Mordecai overhear and what does he do with this information? Why might he have chosen this course of action?
3. What was missing from Mordecai’s good deed (Answer: his reward)? How might Mordecai have felt about this?
4. How do you feel when your good deeds are unnoticed? How might this happen at work? How might this reality effect the relationship between a husband and wife ? If you have children, how do you bear the reality that some (or most) of your deeds for your children go unnoticed?
5. Why is it comforting to know that God sees all our deeds? How might we remind ourselves of this when days at work or home are hard?
6. **Review Esther 3:1-15:** What happens in this part of the story? Summarize briefly.
7. Who is Haman and why does Mordecai not bow down to him? How does King Saul and his battle with Amalek relate to the story of Esther (1 Sam 15) (Answer: Haman is in a line of “Enemies of the Jews”)?
8. How ought believers to respond when wickedness and evil, against Jews and/or Christian, rises in our world? What hopes and promises do we have from the Lord to cling to?
9. Haman bring his case before the king but it is filled with lies and half-truths (3:8-9). How should believers understand the lies that the devil brings before God in accusation against us? How do you respond when you are reminded of your own sinfulness?
10. Verse 3:7 talks about the day which Haman enacts his plan. Why is that day special for the Jews? What truth about the Lord should it remind the Jews of (**See Lev. 23, Ex 12, and Deut. 16**).
11. How are you, today, trusting in the Lord’s invisible hand? What stories do you have in your own life that you can look back to that give you hope for the Lord’s future grace and help?