

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Esther 6:1-7:10

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

Ice Breaker: What is a favorite story of yours that has a particularly good plot and turn of events in it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What has happened in Esther 1-5? Briefly recap the storyline. Who are the main characters and what do we know about them? What's the main tension of the story at the end of chapter 5?
2. **Read Esther 6:1-11:** Briefly recap the story and plot. Name all the "coincidences" that you see in this passage.
3. Why does the king want to honor Mordecai after he hears the recounting of the time when Mordecai saved him? What benefit is it to the king to honor him?
4. When the king asks Haman what he would do to honor someone, what does his response reveal about his heart? What is Haman expecting from the king?
5. Why is verse 10 so ironic and what does this turn mean for Haman and for Mordecai? How is Mordecai honored and Haman humiliated?
6. **Read Esther 6:13.** What does this text teach us about the Persian's view of Israel's God and the stories that they've heard? If they can see God's hand at work in Mordecai's life, where do we see God's hand and not just "coincidences"?
7. **Application:** Read Proverbs 21:1. How should we view the rulers and those in power in our day? Has your heart been tempted to fear or fret over the political future of our country? How do we grow in our trust of the Lord over the state and direction of our country?
8. **Review Esther 7:1-10:** What happens in this part of the story? Summarize briefly.
9. How does Esther's request before the king show her growth in trusting God and in being wise with the position God has given her?
10. **Application:** How does her courage instruct us in our faith? Have you lost a job/promotion or a relationship because of your faith? Would you be willing to? How do you prepare your heart now for such a situation?
11. **Application:** Haman's wickedness and foolishness are highlighted in this story. What does his pride teach us about the dangers of pride before a holy God? What ways can we fight against our own pride and foolishness?