

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Esther 8:1-10:3

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 ending?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What has happened so far in Esther 8-10? Briefly recap the storyline. Who are the main characters and what do we know about them? What's the main unresolved tension at the end of chapter 7?
2. **Review Esther 8:3-8:** Briefly recap this part of the story.
3. How is Esther's response this time different than last time she approached the king? In verse, 7, why does it seem like the king thinks that dealing with Haman should have been enough for Esther? Why wasn't it? What does this tell us about Esther and the growth in her character?
4. **Compare Esther 3:13 with 8:11-12:** In what ways does the new edict reflect Haman's original edict? Why is it significant that they match so closely? What does this communicate about Mordecai and Esther's intentions for the new edict?
5. What is the response to the new edict when it is introduced to the people (8:15-17)? How does this differ from the response of the Jews to the first edict (4:1-3)?
6. What does this reversal tell us about God's plans and sovereignty? How often do we fret and worry over situations only to see God reverse our situations? How can this story help us to trust the Lord more even when our situation seems grim?
7. **Review Esther 9:** Briefly describe the results of the two conflicting edicts.
8. What questions does this passage raise for you? How might you respond to someone who only sees vengeance in this passage rather than God's sovereign plan over history? How does Haman's family line connect to the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8-16; 1 Sam. 15:1-33).
9. What is Purim and why was it established as a new feast/holiday for Israel? What significances does this day of salvation have for God's people and for our salvation?
10. **Application:** Revelation 19 describes the end of all time feast of the lamb. How does the end of this story anticipate the feast in Revelation 19? What does it mean for us today to look forward to this final feast? Does casting your eyes to this final feast change how you view and respond to situations today? How can it?