

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Sermon: Ted

Text: Esther 1

Notes: Phil Demeter

Sunday we started our journey through the book of Esther. A book where God is not mentioned yet we see that He is still ever present. In this first chapter we learn about a king who had everything so he gave a feast to all the people to essentially show off his grandeur, splendor....himself. During this party we learn that the king puts an edict out to drink with “no compulsion” or without inhibitions. At this time the queen too was having a party for the women. On the 7th day the king asks the royal eunuchs to retrieve his wife the queen to show her off to all the men at this party. She refuses which causes the king to become enraged! He listens to the “wise” men and he puts out a royal order that she cannot come before the king anymore, and all women will “give honor” to their husbands acknowledging who they are.

There is some stuff to unpack here so let’s chat!

1. Let’s take a moment and read John 12:6. What was the issue with Judas here in this verse? How does Judas’ heart seem similar to King Xerxes in Esther 1?
2. Read Proverbs 10:2. What are the differences in King Xerxes and Jesus? How are we more like Xerxes vs Jesus? What makes Jesus the better (better meaning the best that has ever been) King? Revelation 1:17-18 gives a hint to why He’s the best king!
3. Queen Vashti’s refusal to be paraded like nothing more than a trophy in front of, what we could presume is a bunch of drunk men, was a slap to the face of Xerxes and his reaction to her refusal shows this. What is our response to being admonished for our actions? Let’s read John 14:16-17. Why would this be both a praise and humbling?
4. Being a disciple comes down to one pretty big point and that is our self denial. How does self denial work in our relationships, friendships, marriages? Go ahead and Read Ephesians 5:1-2, 19-21. When reading these verses from Paul, what are some practical ways to disciple each other?
5. Let’s go ahead and read all of Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3. How does this differ from King Xerxes? Let’s pray that the world we live in sees a difference which is a Christ who covers our sins and allows us to love outside of ourselves pouring out on each other, then overflowing to those who we are around!

6. Ephesians 5:19 says to speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and songs of the spirit, to sing and make music from your heart to the Lord! Take time this week to sing. Sing the doxology. Sing the song Blessed be your Name. Sing the hymn Take the World but Give Me Jesus. Just sing and give our Lord Jesus the glory before you leave each other's presence