

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 03/3/24

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Text: Esther 5-6:13 Take Courage!

Questions: Ted

Take time to read this text together if you haven't already. If you've never read or heard Esther's story before there are some unanswered questions and a plot that needs to be resolved. Will Esther succeed in pleading to the king on behalf of the Jews? Will the genocidal edict go forward or will God provide a deliverer? The king finally honors Mordecai but what will become of Haman and his evil plan?

When you're in the middle of the story and don't yet see how the plot is going to be resolved, it's easy to let fear take over. These two chapters give us a few reasons to take courage no matter what we're facing today: We have the favor of a Better King! The Enemy's plan will backfire, and God will reward faithfulness.

Discussion:

1. In 5:1-8 Esther goes into the presence of the king. God is the King of everything. How does the gospel give us confidence and courage? Think about how Esther going to the king resembles our relationship to God? How do you see glimpses of the gospel here? Why should that fill us with courage?
2. We can take courage because the enemy's plan always backfires. How does Haman's plan backfire on him? How does God's arch enemy, Satan, and his destructive plan backfire on him? (John 10:10, Colossians 2:14-15, Ephesians 1:7-10)
3. The king finally rewards Mordecai. We can take courage because God rewards faithfulness!
 - a. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. If this is true about us then who do we have most in common with in Esther 5-6?
 - b. How is Jesus a better version of Esther and Mordecai?
 - c. Jesus died upon the cross in obedience to God. How has the Father rewarded Jesus for his faithfulness?
 - d. The gospel is that God has offered us the gift to be identified with the faithfulness of Jesus rather than our sinfulness? How does that give us confidence and courage?