

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with  
one another in our homes

Sermon: Ted Rastater  
Text: Esther 7-end  
Date: 3/24/24  
Questions: Nathan Athineos

This week we concluded the story of Esther, and through it, we were reminded that even though God's people are in the enemy's crosshairs, God wins in the end. Psalm 81 tells us when God arises, his enemies are scattered. We can take courage in God's victory and know that none can stand against him. Ted gave us 3 applications from Esther while we wait for Christ's triumphant return, and final victory. First, to act with wisdom and discernment. Second, to trust in an unlikely hero. Third, to feast in the presence of enemies.

1. Esther acts with wisdom and discernment in the face of her enemy, Haman. While we currently live in a country more friendly to Christianity, it is becoming increasingly hostile to what we believe. How can we prepare ourselves for spiritual attacks from the world? Reference Ephesians 6:10-20. When we are faced with hostility, how can we handle it? Reference Proverbs 15:1-4.
2. How is the wisdom of the Bible different from the wisdom of the world? Reference James 3:13-18. Read Proverbs 1:20-22. These verses tell us that God's wisdom is readily available for us, but it is stern to those that do not seek it. Take a moment to search your heart and ask yourself if you are actively seeking God's wisdom. Share with your brothers and sisters if there are ways you would like to do better in this area.
3. God uses Esther and Mordecai as unlikely heroes to save his chosen people. It is easy to look at Esther's heroism and ask ourselves how we can be heroes in God's story. But we are not the heroes of God's story, Jesus is. Through Jesus, God offers salvation to all people, Jew and Gentile. However, God still uses us in his story, not as heroes but as willing servants, to carry out his will and let others know of his story. What are ways God uses us? Share an example of a time you've seen God's story in action. What encouragement does it offer us? Reference Phillipians 2:12-13

4. In the wake of the heroic actions of Esther, a new holiday is established for the Jews. They eat and rejoice that God has triumphed over their enemies. We too have reason to eat and rejoice! Jesus has conquered death and offers us a place in his house! Read John 14:1-4. Knowing we have a place in God's house, how should we be living? Reference Colossians 3:23 and 1 Corinthians 10:31.