

ESTHER

PIVOT POINT

ESTHER 6 & 7

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PIVOT POINT

(Esther 6-7)

Chapters 6 and 7 in the book of Esther describe what is quite probably the most ironic comedy scene in all of the Bible. Haman, the archenemy of God's Chosen People, is on top of the world in terms of power, privilege, prosperity and popularity. He has it all, including a plan to wipe the Jews from the face of Earth. In so doing, Haman is carrying out the will of Satan to defeat God's promise to send a Savior through the Jewish people (Genesis 12:2-3). Things couldn't be any better for the evil Haman and things couldn't look much worse for God's team of Esther, Mordecai, and Israel. But in a moment, everything switches up. Though all hope seems lost, in a dramatic, last-minute Divine reversal, God suddenly pivots, Esther follows His lead, Haman is history, and Heaven's help shows up big time to conquer the day! This is truly one of the very best come-from-behind wins of all time! And in the storytelling, God gives us an opportunity to see that when evil looks to be the ultimate winner, He won't let that happen. Rather, even in our darkest hours, we can be assured that our final destiny is one of ultimate triumph and glory with Christ.

INSIGHTS FROM AN INSOMNIAC

(Esther 6:1-3)

HAMAN HAPPENS ALONG

(Esther 6:4-9)

MORDECAI DAY(!) IN MEDO-PERSIA

(Esther 6:10-11)

HAMAN THE HURTING HENCHMAN

(Esther 6:12-14)

GOD'S PIVOT POINT FOR ESTHER

(Esther 7:1-6)

HAMAN GETS THE POINT

(Esther 7:6-10)

PIVOT POINT LESSONS

GOD IS AT WORK ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. It will take a couple of minutes to do this, but have one or two of the best readers in your group read **Esther 6** and **7** aloud from the New Living Translation. Have them do so with a sense of storytelling, not just rote reading. Leaders, choose your people ahead of your meeting and give them some advance notice so they can practice the passage.
2. Pastor John mentioned the four types of worldviews (**Happenstance**, **Fatalism**, **Capriciousness**, and **Divine Providence**) that people use to process the circumstances of their lives. What are the differences between these worldviews? Which one is Biblical? What are the blessings of adhering to a Biblical worldview? What are the consequences of choosing a non-Biblical worldview?
3. What sort of emotions do you suppose were unleashed in Haman's prideful life when he had to walk around and tell everyone in the capital city of Susa that Mordecai was so incredible? What do you suppose Mordecai was feeling? In **James 4:6**, the Bible says, "*God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*" How does pride hurt us in our relationship with Jesus and our ministry to others? What has God taught you about the value of humbleness?
4. Pastor John shared six "Pivot Point" lessons at the close of the message. Which one or two of them most "struck home" with you? How have you personally experienced the Lord do one of His signature pivot moves in your life? Talk about an area (or two) where the Lord is teaching you to trust Him. As each shares, stop and have two folks in your group pray for the person and the area for growth pinpointed. Remember: *Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.* (**James 5:16**)