



GREAT LESSONS FROM ESTHER'S STORY

(Esther 9 & 10)

These last two chapters of Esther can seem anticlimactic as far as the storytelling itself goes. Once Haman the villain is out of the way (Esther 7), and once the heroes, Esther and Mordecai, are firmly in control of the situation (Esther 8), we can all pretty much figure out how the story is going to end. But hold up. There are still a few details to be filled in before this Bible book finishes out. And even more important, there are profound life lessons that God wants to show us via the examples of Esther and Mordecai. Though they lived almost 2500 years ago, what God taught them *then*, is what we need to learn *now*! Honestly, while it is good to know the story of Esther, what we most need to know are the lessons of Esther. Think about it. God was at work behind-the-scenes, drawing Mordecai and Esther, mostly unawares, out of the shadows of worldly secularism and spiritual complacency. He led them to openly follow Him and become a huge force for accomplishing His good plans in their ancient culture. Today, Christians face the same struggles with worldly secularism and spiritual complacency. Here in Esther 9-10, as we finish out this enthralling Old Testament tale, we'll discover some very practical ways that God wants to use us to be His godly examples in our day and to our culture.

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE

(Esther 9:1-16)

CALENDAR DATES

(Esther 9:17-19)

THE PARTY CALLED PURIM

(Esther 9:20-32)

MORDECAI TO THE TOP

(Esther 10:1-3)

BIG LIFE LESSONS

1. When under attack ...
2. Deal with the tough stuff by ...
3. No matter the circumstances ...
4. When you do come out on top ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

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

1. **Esther 9 & 10** can seem rather anticlimactic, and perhaps a bit boring to most Gentile readers. Yet, to Jewish readers most especially, these two chapters contain some super important truths pertaining to them as God's chosen people. Realizing this, what are some of the key facts and details from the Esther story that God is wanting to emphasize as He wraps up the book? Why are they important to understanding what Purim is all about?
2. So, what is Purim all about? What are some of the Jewish practices that PJ mentioned, which Israelis do over the course of the 13th, 14th, and 15th days of Adar as they celebrate Purim? Are there any lessons about God that the Church can learn from their observances of Purim? Had it turned out differently, and the Jews been annihilated by Haman, what would be the end result as it relates to Jesus and our salvation?
3. In **Esther 9:30**, the author tells us that the instructions which Mordecai and Esther gave to the people of Israel were *words of peace and truth*. What does that phrase mean to you? What do you see as the connection between experiencing God's peace in your life and living out God's truth through your life? In **Esther 9:28**, we're told that the Jews were to pass on the observance and the teachings of Purim to every generation. As followers of Jesus, how can we best pass on the spiritual truths of all the Bible to our descendants?
4. Take a second look at the **4 BIG LIFE LESSONS** that PJ shared from the conclusion of Esther. Which one of these lessons most spoke to what you needed to hear and be reminded about personally? Share why this particular truth resonated to your need. How do you think the Holy Spirit wants you to apply the concept to the way you are living? What do you want the difference to be?