

ESTHER

RESCUE TURNAROUND

ESTHER 8

ncff

RESCUE & TURNAROUND

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Truthfully, you need to be rescued and have your life turned around! In fact, all of us do on a daily basis. Now, why is that? It is obvious. Daily we get ourselves in trouble (physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally, financially, educationally, occupationally, spiritually) by traveling in life's wrong directions. Admit it: We're good at driving into one of life's many dead-end streets and then our pride keeps us stuck there. That's why you and I really need to hear this. Every day we must go to Christ to receive the rescue and the turnaround that only Jesus (as God) has the **power** to give us. Seriously, only Jesus **loves** us enough to actually do the never-ending job of rescuing us and turning our lives around. Only Jesus is genuinely committed enough to already have a rescue **plan** in place that can genuinely turn life around. Chapter 8 of Esther's story clearly and beautifully demonstrates what this **rescue and turnaround from God** is all about. Though Esther's wicked enemy, Haman, was dead, his evil plot against her nation (the Jewish people of God) was still very much alive. Was God going to let the circumstances crush Israel? No way. He rescued them and turned their lives around. And here's why this matters to you: Jesus will do the same for those who follow Him today. So, what does this rescue and turnaround from Christ look like? How does a rescue turnaround from Jesus come around to you and me? That's what we'll see from God's Word. The Holy Spirit of God is ready to work His rescue of you and turnaround in you, today.

THE STORY'S SETTING

(vv. 1-2)

REALITY HITS

(vv. 3-6)

AID FROM A PAGAN KING

(vv 7-8)

MORDECAI MAKES HIS MARK

(vv 9-12)

THE TURNAROUND GETS TOLD

(vv 13-14)

THE TURNAROUND TAKES HOLD

(vv 15-17)

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

God's Rescue and Turnaround happens when ...

1. We realize we need His rescue and turnaround ...
2. We tune our ears to hear Him ...
3. We obey what He ...
4. We stay focused on the Big Picture reason why He ...

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. Take a few minutes and have your group piece together (from memory) the story of Esther through the first seven chapters. Now have one of your best readers read Esther Chapter 8 aloud. Go around the group and have each member share what new plot twist or development most stands out to them (and why it does) as the eighth chapter advances the telling of the story.
2. Why is it important that followers of Jesus seek God's rescue and turnaround on a **daily** basis? Can you think of some verses or Biblical examples that teach or demonstrate this practice? When a person follows this as a daily routine, does it indicate they view themselves as some sort of perpetual "loser" or does it indicate they are humbly acknowledging their dependence upon Christ for every step of the journey? How does one go about communicating this dependence upon Jesus, to Jesus? And at times when you have done this, what have you heard the Lord say back to you in response?
3. What do you make of the fact that the Lord used Xerxes (a totally pagan king) to help bring about spiritual rescue and turnaround in Esther's life, in Mordecai's life, in the life of all of Israel, and even in the lives of some Medo-Persian people (v.17)? Can you think of ways in your own life that the Lord used people, who are not followers of Jesus, to help you become a better follower of Jesus? Share with your group the story behind those experiences and what Christ taught you.
4. If we're just wanting to be **rescued** so our life can be better off (more nice things, better health, more personal pleasures), is that ultimately what God has in mind when He rescues us? If we are asking God for a turnaround simply so we can get out of trouble and have smoother circumstances, is that ultimately what God has in mind when He gives us a **turnaround**? What are God's true "Big Picture" reasons for bringing about rescue and turnaround in our lives?

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