

WHERE IS GOD?

Esther 4

FROM PASTOR MARK

The Book of Esther provides a powerful illustration of God's sovereignty in "working all things together for the good..." (Romans 8:28). Surprisingly, God's name does not appear in Esther. The account leaves "God shaped holes." Nowhere are those holes more evident than in chapter 4; however nowhere is God more needed or more active. Do you ever ask, "Where is God?"

- I. **Where is God... WHEN WE ARE HURTING? (4:1-2)**
 - A. Mordecai's Lament (1-2)
 - B. The Jews' Lament (3)
 - C. Lament is meant for God's people (Psalm 13... cry to God!)

- II. **Where Is God... WHEN WE ARE ISOLATED? (4:4-8)**
 - A. Esther was out of touch with Mordecai (4-5)
 - B. Esther was out of touch with the Covenant community (6-8).
 - C. The value of spiritual community (Psalm 73:13-17).

- III. **Where is God... WHEN WE ARE FEARFUL? (4:9-11)**
 - A. The Danger of the Request (9-11a)
 - B. The Difficulty of the Circumstances (11b)

- IV. **Where is God... WHEN WE NEED PURPOSE? (4:12-17)**
 - A. The God-shaped holes in Mordecai's message (12-14)
 1. The author doesn't mention God and he wants us to notice that!
 2. Fill the hole in your life purpose with God.
 - B. Esther's Courageous Resolve (15-17)

- V. **Where is God?**
 - A. He is very much at work and keeping His promises to His people.
 - B. Remember Gen. 12:1-3 and Romans 8:28.

Where is God in your life... your hurts, your isolation, your fears, your life purpose?

Beware of Psalm 14:1 and our own drift toward practical Atheism!

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. Do we, like Esther, ever get out of touch with God's people and what steps can we take to get back in touch with Christian community?
2. Read Psalm 13. Where does it seem that God is absent in your circumstances and how should you respond?

FOR NEXT TIME—Read Esther 5:1-6:13, *Tables are Turned*