



Wisdom and Whispers PT. I | Esther | Mark Allen | 04.19.26

The Book of Esther

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to truth.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you had to take a stand for something you believed in, even when it was uncomfortable or risky.

Sermon Summary

Pastor Mark explored the book of Esther, revealing how God works behind the scenes even when He isn't directly mentioned. The central focus was on understanding the spiritual battle between obedience to God versus secular humanism (doing what's right in our own eyes). The sermon traced the historical conflict between the Benjamites (Saul/Mordecai) and the Amalekites (Agag/Haman), showing how incomplete obedience has lasting consequences.

Key Takeaways

1. **God values obedience over sacrifice** - Doing things our way, even with good intentions, isn't the same as following God's commands
2. **Secular humanism infiltrates even the church** - The temptation to determine our own morality rather than submit to God's Word
3. **History repeats itself when we don't learn from it** - Saul's disobedience created problems generations later

4. **We are positioned "for such a time as this"** - Like Esther, we have a purpose in our current moment in history
 5. **Standing for truth isn't the same as being hateful** - We can love people while standing firm on biblical truth
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What surprised you about the background story of Haman being an "Agagite"?** How does understanding this historical context change your reading of Esther?
2. **Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23.** Why does God say rebellion is like witchcraft? What's the connection between disobedience and idolatry?
3. **What are the four lies Haman told about the Jewish people?** (They're different, disloyal, dangerous, disposable) Where do you see these same lies being told today about various groups?

Personal Reflection

4. **In what areas of your life might you be practicing "secular humanism"** - doing what seems right to you rather than obeying God's clear direction?
5. **Pastor Mark emphasized that "obedience is better than sacrifice."** Can you think of a time when you tried to make up for disobedience with good works? What was the result?
6. **Esther faced a choice between safety and obedience.** What risks or fears keep you from fully obeying God in certain areas of your life?

Application for Today

7. **Mordecai told Esther she was positioned "for such a time as this."** What do you think God has positioned you to do in this current season? What unique platform, relationships, or opportunities has He given you?
8. **How can we stand for biblical truth while still showing love to those who disagree with us?** What's the difference between being hateful and being truthful?
9. **Pastor Mark mentioned that we need to determine morality based on God's Word, not our feelings.** What current cultural issues challenge you most in this area? How can we help each other stay grounded in Scripture?

10. What does it mean practically to "bless Israel" as believers today? How should Genesis 12:3 ("I will bless those who bless you") impact our prayers, giving, and political views?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

- Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
- **Option 1: Examine Your Obedience**
 - Identify one area where you've been doing what seems right to you rather than what God has clearly said
 - Write down what complete obedience would look like
 - Take one concrete step toward full obedience this week
- **Option 2: Study for Yourself**
 - Pick one cultural issue where you're uncertain about the biblical position
 - Spend time studying what Scripture actually says (not what influencers or commentators say)
 - Write down what you discover and how it challenges or confirms your current beliefs
- **Option 3: Courage Like Esther**
 - Identify one situation where God may be calling you to speak truth, even at personal cost
 - Pray and fast about it (like Esther did)
 - Ask God for wisdom about timing and approach
 - Take action in obedience

Group Activity

- Consider reading the book "Haman's Lies" by Jimmy Evans together as a group over the next few weeks, discussing one chapter per meeting.
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Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Discernment to recognize when we're following cultural morality vs. biblical truth
 - Courage to stand for truth even when it's unpopular
 - Protection and blessing for Israel and the Jewish people
 - Those trapped in false belief systems (including secular humanism, Islam, etc.) to encounter Jesus
 - Wisdom to know when and how to speak truth in love
 - The church to be positioned and ready "for such a time as this"
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Closing Reflection

Repentance means "changing your mind" - aligning your thinking with God's truth rather than your own understanding. Is there an area where God is calling you to repent (change your thinking) this week?

Scripture Memory

Esther 4:14 - "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Additional Resources

- Book: "Haman's Lies" by Jimmy Evans
 - Scripture passages for further study:
 - 1 Samuel 15 (Saul and the Amalekites)
 - Deuteronomy 25:17-19 (God's command regarding Amalek)
 - The entire book of Esther
 - Ephesians 6:12 (spiritual warfare)
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