

1. GOING DEEPER

Esther 8:1-17

1) a) Esther displayed strong emotions as she poured out her heart to the King and was very specific in her request for his intervention in saving the lives of the Jews. With reference to 1 Peter 5:7, what application can we as believers draw from Esther's example in approaching God in prayer?

b) Why do you think that God wants us to invite His intervention in our situations instead of just acting upon His full knowledge of everything that concerns us?

c) In response to Esther's plea for his help, King Xerxes gives instruction to Mordecai to write a decree to counteract the one which Haman had written. Discuss how we may sometimes miss God's answers to our prayers when He uses others to assist us as opposed to supernaturally turning the situation around as we might expect.

2) a) Mordecai did not create a new decree but rather countered all that was contained in the one Haman had written. What application can we draw from this about the way that God deals with those who plot against our lives?

b) Mordecai played his part in the deliverance of the Jew by following through on the King's instructions. Identify and reflect on scripture verses that teach us about receiving the victory in a situation by persevering in following God's instructions until we can do no more.

c) Jesus in John 9: 4 informs us that "We must work the works of him who sent me (Christ) while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work." Explain why it is important to have a sense of urgency about obeying God? Can delayed obedience be disobedience?

3 a) Why is it important to celebrate the victories that God brings about in our lives?

b) In what ways can we celebrate God's goodness on our behalf or on the behalf of others?

2. ASSESS YOURSELF

1) To what extent are you relying on God to counteract the plans of the enemy against you?



I find it difficult to rely on God to fight on my behalf. I usually try to work things out on my own.



I am learning to rely more and more on God to intervene in my situations and to follow through on His instructions given in His word.



I always rely completely on God to counteract the enemy's plans and I am completely at peace as I depend on Him.

2) How can I learn to completely give all my burdens to God and to rely on Him more to deliver me from the enemy's plans.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. APPLICATION

Of the list above, which one(s) will you be intentional about working on this week?

I will ask _____ to hold me accountable in this.

Key Verse

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Sermon Main Points

Sermon Highlights

God counteracts the enemy's plans so let us:

- 🕯️ Cast all our anxieties on God;
- 🕯️ Follow through on God's commands with urgency; and
- 🕯️ Celebrate the goodness of God.

- 🕯️ The reason that we often do not give all our burdens to God is because we have a flawed theology that there are some things that God is not concerned about.
- 🕯️ Following through on God's commands brings results, including answers to prayers, wisdom, peace, assurance of salvation; and experiencing the presence of God.
- 🕯️ When God counteracts the plans of the enemy in our lives or in the lives of our brothers and sisters, we should be jubilant.

"When the temporal things of this world become more important than the eternal things of God, we know that our priorities have become displaced".

5 Day Study Plan ("Study to show yourself Approved unto God...")

Day 1

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

What I learned (observation / interpretation):

How I will Respond (application):

Day 2

Psalms 34:17-20

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 3

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 4

Matthew 7:7-11

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Day 5

Isaiah 54:17

What I learned:

How I will Respond:

Inductive Bible Study Method



Observation (What does the text say?)

This phase is about observing exactly what the text is saying.

Pretend you're an investigator who's just gathering the facts. Ask yourself the five W's and H: (Who, what, where, when, why, how).



Interpretation (What does the text mean?)

Discover what the author is trying to communicate. And to do this, you need to look at the context to determine

- 🕯️ What is the **main theme** and what is the **meaning** of key words;
- 🕯️ Examine **cross references**
- 🕯️ Compare **translations**
- 🕯️ **Summarize** the text
- 🕯️ **Use** commentaries (last resort)



Application (How should this affect Me?)

Don't study the bible just for knowledge – study for application. If you stop at the interpretation stage, you are selling yourself short. Based on what you have learnt, ask yourself "How should this change the way I think, speak and behave?"

Seek to identify if there are - **Sins** to confess; **Promises** to claim; **Examples** to follow; **Actions** to obey or **Knowledge** to grow in.