

THE TIDE TURNS

“Faithful to Fulfill: A Study of God as Revealed in Post-Exilic Scripture”

Esther 4:1-6:13 / Part 21 / Pastor Matthew Jones

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Foundation: Maker’s History (Genesis-Esther)

Found: Mordecai Hears (Esther 4:1-14)

Fasting: Mournful Hearts (Esther 4:15-17)

Food: Meal for Haman (Esther 5:1-8)

Flossing: Murder for Haters (Esther 5:9-14)

Forgetfulness: Memory Helped (Esther 6:1-9)

Fashion: My Habilitment (Esther 6:10-13)

Finale: Moving Hardships (Esther 1-6:13)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. While the book of Esther does not explicitly mention God, in chapter 4 verse 14 there is an allusion to help coming to the people, i.e., a “deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place.” Have you ever experienced moments in your life where you felt like God was distant, only to later look back with hindsight and see how amazingly and graciously He was there all along? Share.
2. How does Mordecai react when he hears the news of Haman’s scheme and the King’s decree (Esther 4:1-2)? Have you ever received such horrible news that it drove you to this kind of despair? Share. What would say is the lowest moment you have faced in your life and how did God carry you through it?
3. In Esther chapter 4 we see the Jewish people react to the horrible news of Haman’s genocide plot with mournful fasting. Often in Scripture when we see fasting it also is accompanied by praying (e.g., Neh.1:4, Acts 13:3, 14:23), but the chapter (not to mention the whole book) is absent of prayer to God. This absence of prayer could be a part of the dystopian narrative that is showing the spiritual darkness and compromise of the post-exilic era. In our own lives, when are you tempted to prayerlessness? Sometimes we can be fast to fast and slow to pray. Discuss why this is and how we can grow in our prayerfulness in the face of hardships and anxieties.
4. In our study of Esther we saw a huge role reversal with Haman and Mordecai. The oppressed is elevated and his oppressor is shamed. Have you ever experienced a role reversal in your life where God either humbled you or raised you up after being pushed down? Discuss.
5. How can we see Jesus foreshadowed in Esther 1-4? Discuss.
6. How can we pray for your holiness and witness? Share, discuss, and pray.