



ESTHER

Discussion Questions 9/17/23

Lukewarm

Intro: As if the deeds of king Xerxes weren't already bad enough, he has now made the decision to gather up women and make them go through beauty treatments to see which one could please him the most. It is within this gross abuse of power that Esther finds herself as she has become one receiving beauty treatments and responsible for pleasing the king.

Story: Sometimes situations that have been placed around us cause us to wonder how in the world we're supposed to follow God. It almost seems like every choice is the wrong one. Share how you've sought the wisdom of God in these moments.

Read: Esther 2:1-18

1. Mordecai found himself forced into a position where he had to mentor Esther, not even his own child, through situations he never could have imagined happening to her. Who in your life could you be mentoring and how might you be able to help them prepare for following God in unimaginable moments?
2. King Xerxes grossly misused his power for his own gain. Government using power for their own gain is nothing new to us. Read both Acts 5:29 and Romans 13:1. Take some time to wrestle through what these passages with your group and how Christians should respond to the government.
3. Esther 2:10 says that Esther hid her nationality because Mordecai forbade her. Sometimes it's easier not to share that you're a Christian. Have you ever found that hiding something like this can lead to a slippery slope of a life you weren't prepared for? How might someone get back on track?
4. As we see Esther receiving the beauty treatments we might be reminded of Daniel refusing the king's meat in a very similar scenario. What does it do for you to know that regardless of their start, both of these people ended up being considered heroes in the Bible?
5. Eventually Esther won the king's favor. Have you ever considered that any favor that you've won with anyone, but especially non-Christians, exists that God's glory could be put on display? Think of real relationships that you have, how can you leverage those to share the goodness of God in your community?

Pray for:

- Your political leaders.
- Wisdom for how to approach politics as a Christian.
- God's kingdom to be present on earth as it is in heaven.