



ESTHER

Discussion Questions 10/1/23

Defining Moments

Intro: Because of Haman's wrath, Xerxes signed into law that all the Jews could be killed. Mordecai, Esther's uncle, found out and he wept and put on sackcloth. He went to Esther and told her that she needed to go before the king to try to save the lives of her people. The problem is that going before the king without be beckoned could result in death...

Story: I (Pastor Seth) became a Christian when I was six. I had not lived much life to consider anything a defining moment. When I was in college, however, I was attending a denominational seminary that I began to realize had warped and bad theology. The difficulty, however, was that I had networked hard and I knew that I could get a job as a pastor remarkably easy, but if I left all the education I had would count for nothing. I chose to leave. That was a defining moment in my life because it defined that I was serious about following Jesus regardless of the consequences. What has been the most defining moment in your life?

Read: Esther 4:1-17

1. Pastor Ricky discussed how actually feeling our emotions is okay. How does actually feeling your emotions reflect being one of God's image bearers?
2. Esther hadn't been called to the king in 30 days. Sometimes we think Esther had it easier than us because she at least had a position of power. But she really didn't seem to have that in this moment. How can you exercise obedience to God even without a position of authority?
3. Esther engaged with politics as a way to love her neighbors. As we move into a political season and both sides try to fill people with fear and rage, how can you use your political opportunities to love your neighbor?
4. Read Philippians 1:12-21. Paul understood that in following Jesus he only had everything to gain. Define your assurance in exercising obedience to Jesus.
5. Read Esther 4:14 again. Even if you refuse to follow God, he will accomplish his plans. And yet, he chose you for right now. Why do you think God chose you for right now? Why do you think God chose the other people in your group for this exact time?

Pray for:

- Your political leaders.
- Courage
- Humility