



# ESTHER

## Discussion Questions 10/15/23

### Reversing Fate

**Intro:** As Mordecai sat in sackcloth and ashes, he could not have had any idea that Xerxes was going to have a sleepless night that led to a reminder of how Mordecai saved his life. In a beautiful moment of irony, Xerxes has Haman plan Mordecai's party while thinking the party is going to be for Haman himself. We see the beautiful justice that God brings to his people.

**Story:** When was a time that you felt like God was too late, but you later realized just how perfect God's timing really was?

**Read:** Esther 5:15-6:4

1. Mordecai was overlooked and yet God was able to lift him up. Who might be overlooked in your life and how could you help to lift them up?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:17. There is a time for every activity, that even includes wicked deeds. We've seen a number of wicked deeds already in Esther. Consider the stories of Mordecai and Haman and discuss how you understand God to handle righteousness and wickedness.
3. Read Job 38. Job had all sorts of awful things happen to him and he was upset with God. Job 38 is the beginning of God's response. Essentially, this passage is the beginning of God telling Job that he has no idea what right and wrong is. God is so in control that even when evil seems to be winning, God is simply laughing (Psalm 2). What does God need to do to your understanding of right and wrong, good and evil?
4. Haman having to lift up and praise Mordecai was an ironic picture of divine reversal. Reflect on how the Gospel itself is a divine reversal.
5. Just as the Gospel is a divine reversal, so is the mission Jesus sends us on. Jesus talks about laying down power and dying as a way to establish himself as king. How can you practice this sort of divine reversal to serve and love those around you? Give practical examples.

**Pray for:**

- Your political leaders.
- The marginalized
- God's justice, but instead of praying for it generally, think of specific people who you need God's justice in their lives.