

Small Group Questions | February 3, 2019

The Great Explorers — Esther Part 2

Esther 5:1–8

Context: Esther chapters 5–10

Other Passages Referenced: Luke 24:44; Rom 6:23

Background Helps

Feast of Purim – The name “Purim” comes from Haman casting Pur—casting lots—to see what day his gods thought best to annihilate the Jewish people (Esther 3:7). This article explains the historic and modern significance of the Feast of Purim from a Jewish perspective — https://www.chabad.org/holidays/purim/article_cdo/aid/645309/jewish/What-Is-Purim.htm. It takes less than two minutes to read.

The Parallels between the books of Esther and Exodus – As you read and reflect on the Book of Esther, be on the lookout for similarities to the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt and the Passover. Consider parallels between Joseph and Mordecai, Passover and Purim, Moses and Esther, in the Exodus account God used attention-getting miracles, while in Esther He demonstrated His providence through circumstances. Every year the first day of Passover is exactly one Jewish calendar month after the first day of the Feast of Purim. Also be on the lookout for how both the Passover and Purim point to the deliverance accomplished by Jesus.

Sermon Recap: In His providence, God turns the tables to bring life to a people facing death. Esther becomes an explorer—one searching for and following God’s direction—when she trusts in the God who turns the tables.

Hook: *A Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

What is your favorite food associated with a holiday?

Look:

As you read the following passage, remember, the last words spoken by Esther in the previous chapter were: “I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” (Esther 4:16)

Read Esther 5:1–8

1. What was Esther’s request of the King?
2. What two important things happened between the first and second feasts Esther gave for King Ahasuerus and Haman? (You’ll find them in Esther 5:9–14 and 6:1–3). How do these events show the providence of God in turning the tables?
3. What reversals or turning of the tables can you recall in the Book of Esther?
4. What have you seen in the Book of Esther that foreshadows Jesus?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

Practical Applications:

1. How have you seen God turn the tables from impending peril or death in your life?
2. The Jewish people who had been under a decree of death ended up feasting in celebration of their deliverance. The Lord's Supper is a feast Jesus commanded His followers to participate in regularly as a celebration of their deliverance. The Lord's Supper graphically portrays what it cost Jesus to turn the tables and to bring us to the table of a future feast in His Kingdom. How do you process those claims in your own heart and mind?

Verse (You might consider memorizing this one): "And he (Abraham) believed the Lord and he counted it to him as righteousness." Genesis 15:6

Prayer:

- Please spend time praying for one another.