

THE TABLES TURNED

(Esther 8)

THEME: In Chapter 8, we see the providence of God orchestrate an amazing turn of events; the tables are completely turned. The idiom “tables turned” is used to describe a change that occurs when someone gains an advantage over someone else who had an advantage over them. It comes from games like checkers, chess, and backgammon which are known as “table” games. The tables are turned means reversing the board so players play from their opponent’s previous position. That is what happened in this chapter which can be divided into **FIVE SECTIONS**.

1. THE PROMOTION (vv. 1-2)

2. THE PLEA (vv. 3-6)

3. THE PROCLAMATION (vv. 7-14)

4. THE PARTY (vv. 15-17a)

5. THE PROSELYTES (v. 17b)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Grow Group that uses these questions as the basis for weekly discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (936) 582-1977.

1. Have you ever been in a dire situation where the tables suddenly and surprisingly turned in your favor? How did God providentially orchestrate that amazing turn of events?
2. How do the events in this chapter remind you to always maintain a biblical balance between God’s sovereignty and your responsibility (e.g. William Carey-missionary to India)?
3. How would you respond to someone who said, “God is sovereign so we just need to sit back and trust Him and hope for the best”?
4. Read Exodus 15:11-16, Leviticus 26:7-8, Deuteronomy 2:25, Joshua 23:10, and Zechariah 8:20-23. Based on these passages, what was God’s original design and desire for the nation of Israel in regards to the rest of the nations in the world?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What is the job of an ambassador? How does this chapter inspire you to be an ambassador for Christ?
6. How can you be an agent of God’s deliverance in the places where He has put you? What are some ways you can make the good news known to those who are perishing around you?
7. Thank God for delivering you from sin, death, and hell through His Son Jesus Christ. Ask Him to help you be an ambassador for Christ who boldly tells others how they can be delivered too.

“God used Esther and Mordecai to bring about the deliverance of His people. But His people had to be notified! So Mordecai wrote in the name of the king and sent the news throughout the kingdom by mounted couriers on fast horses. God used Jesus Christ to bring about the deliverance of His people. But His people have to be notified today as well. We have the privilege and the responsibility to carry His news as fast and effectively as we can throughout the world....Not by mounted couriers on fast horses, but by word of mouth, by print and electronic media, by lives that communicate to everyone who sees us that we have good news to share (2 Cor. 5:20). As Christ’s ambassador’s we have been providentially provided to proclaim deliverance through Him to those who are perishing. We have been made children of the King. And who knows but that we have come to royal position for such a time as this?....He has put each of us in a unique place at just the right time, where we can be used to bring about that deliverance. Like Esther, we too might have to risk our own comfort or even safety as we carry out our divinely appointed task.”