

"Brighter or Darker"
Esther 5-6
February 3, 2013
Message Notes



1. Esther responds with courage.

Esther 5.1-8

- a. She identified with God's covenant people.
- b. She was willing to die.
- c. She was wise in her ways.

"Without this transformation of character by the Holy Spirit, none of us can attain the full potential of our humanity. Without the work of God's Spirit, we cannot be the persons God created us to be, nor can we attain fully to the purpose of our lives as agents of God's redemptive work in history."
– Karen Jobes

2. Haman responds with pride.

Esther 5.9-14; 6.6-13

The visible work of the invisible God.

Esther 6.1-5

- Haman's pride.

Those who chase after glory only end in misery.

- Haman's humiliation.

3. Mordecai responds with humility.

Esther 5.9; 6.12

- The human response to divine grace is total surrender.

Pride & Humility

- a. Humility is knowing your place.
- b. Everyone is proud, just in different ways.
- c. Pride is about my glory. Humility is about God's glory.

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Growth Group Questions



1. Recall a time in your life when you were mischievous (or worse!) and thought of victimizing someone and it boomeranged (or share someone's story).
2. Read Psalm 7.14-16. This is what happened to Haman in the book of Esther. He was not being mischievous but malicious. Compare Esther 3.5-6 with 5.9-14 and share your observations.
3. Read through Chapter 6. What might be some warning signals for Haman here? (You can also look back and include previous chapters).
4. What have been some warning signals for you in your own journey?
5. It was mentioned last Sunday that everyone is proud, just in different ways. Do you agree? Share your thoughts on this.
6. Esther, though comfortably situated, responded to the light God had given her. God initiated, Esther responded. Read and discuss the quote by Karen Jobes at the back of this page.
7. What are some practical things you do to keep turning the dimmer switch brighter? (Discuss the dimmer switch principle, if necessary.) How can we lovingly help each other grow in this area?