



lyona bible church

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – MAY 23, 2010

Announcements – Please read these to your group!

Please check your bulletin and the website (www.lyona.org) each week for additional information.

- **THEOS:** A new semester will be starting Sunday, June 13 beginning at 9am. Two courses are being offered: *Forgotten God* (Holy Spirit study) and *Heart Revolution* (Parables). We encourage those who will be sporadic during the summer to attend *Heart Revolution*. Sign-up at the Information Desk!
- **Life Groups:** Our Life Groups are open to new couples and singles. So invite away!

Risking It All: Esther 3

Recap:

In chapter three of the amazing book of Esther, we find that Mordecai disobeys a custom to pay respect to Haman, who is basically the prime minister of Persia. For whatever reason, Mordecai refuses to pay customary respect to Haman, which leads an angry Haman to write a decree to genocide the Jews within the empire. After rolling the dice for a year, Haman chooses the day that the genocide will take place.

Questions:

1. What was the most interesting idea or principle about this Sunday's message?
2. How long is five years to you? How does five years play into the events unfolding into chapter 3?
3. Have someone read Esther 3:1-6. What are the implications of Haman's family background? Could these implications play into Mordecai's disobedience to the Xerxes' command? Do you see Mordecai as prideful?
4. Have someone read Esther 3:7-11. What circumstances can be seen as providence? In other words, how can you see God at work?
5. Have someone read Esther 3:12-15. Did the punishment (genocide) fit the crime (Mordecai's disobedience)? Is this just as overboard as Esther 1 and the implications of Vashti's disobedience?
6. Why is God faithful to His word and work even when we are not? How does He work in your life despite you?
7. Do you, after hearing the sermon this Sunday, need to confess anything or repent of anything? What in your life needs to change?

Prayer Requests

A place to write out your groups' prayer requests

SERMON NOTES

Each header with sub-points is a slide used in Sunday morning's PowerPoint presentation.

Text: Esther 3

Speaker: Michael Fraser

Message: Risking It All: Chapter 3

Risking It All: The Story of Hadassah (Esther)

Esther 3:1-15

- 3:1 "After these things..."
- After 5 years had past
- Haman comes onto the scene

Esther 3:1-6

- Haman Exalted
- Mordecai Revolted!
- Haman Insulted!
 - "Set his seat above all the princes..."
 - "The kings gate..."
 - "Bowed down and gave homage..."
 - "See if Mordecai's words would stand...he had told them he was a Jew."
 - "Haman saw...Haman was filled with wrath."

Esther 3:7-18

- Haman Planned!
- The King was Scammed!
- The People were Slammed!
 - Note: Reference to Jewish Calendar
- "They cast lots or Pur"

The Conspiracy Theory:

- Truth: "scattered people"
- Plus Half Truth: "customs are different"
- Plus Lie: "do not keep kings laws"
 - "...So the king and Haman sat down to drink..."
 - This is the second time we see the king drinking when a major decision is made.
 - "...The city was perplexed."
 - Confused, in an uproar, entangled and involved.
 - The royal decree was issued the day before Passover, or the 14th day of Nisan:

Esther reminds us that...

- God is faithful to His Word and His Work, even though we are not.
- Nehemiah 9
- "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even forever. *The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.*" Isa. 9:6,7
- "It is of Jehovah's loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lam. 3:22,23

Conclusion:

- God is faithful to His Word and His Work, even though we are not. Psalm 136