



Lyona bible church

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – JUNE 20, 2010

Announcements – Please read these to your group!

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

- **THEOS:** 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*.
- **Life Groups:** Our Life Groups are open to new couples and singles. So invite away!

Risking It All: Esther 9, 10

Recap:

Chapters 9 and 10 tell the final story of the victory of the Jewish people over their enemies. It shows God's protection and provision for the safety of His people. It also reveals how even in the midst of victory we sometimes lose sight of the One who provided it.

Questions:

1. What was the most interesting idea or principle about this Sunday's message?
2. The political maneuvering of the Laws of the Medes and Persians allowed for contradictory laws to be in effect simultaneously. How did God work to protect His people on the day that the first decree and Esther's decree were to be carried out?
3. Why do you think Esther asked for and the king allowed for a second day of attack by the Jews only in Susa?
4. How has God protected you from your enemies and attackers? What has he used to accomplish this?
5. Why is it that we so often take the credit for things God has clearly done? What things took the place of God in their Feast?
6. Mordecai became the most influential and powerful man in the kingdom. Throughout the book he is a mover and shaker. Why was this book not called the "Acts of Mordecai in the life of Esther"?
7. Do you, after hearing the sermon this Sunday, need to confess anything or repent of anything? What in your life

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 9, 10

Speaker: Michael Fraser

Message: Risking It All: Chapter 9, 10

The story of Esther, Chapter 9,10

A quick review of what we have learned so far:

Esther Chapter 1

- **God is always at work around us fulfilling His plan.**

Esther Chapter 2

- **The active presence of the God in a life is an attractive quality that people respond to.**

Esther Chapter 3

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

Esther Chapter 4

- **The cause of God is of such high value it is worth risking it all!**

Esther Chapters 5, 6

- **God's power working through God's people is an unstoppable force!**

Esther 7, 8

- **God's power working through God's people changes lives!**

"As for you, you meant to harm me, but God intended it for a good purpose, so he could preserve the lives of many people, as you can see this day." Gen. 50:20

Esther 9:1-10:3

All's well that ends well????

Esther 9:1-32

- **The Jews Defend Themselves!**
- **The Jews Protect Themselves!**
- **The Jews Reward Themselves!**

In verses 2-5 and 16 they defended themselves.

- **"no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people."**
- **"because fear of Mordecai fell upon them."**
- **"...and did what they pleased with those who hated them."**

In verses 13-15 they protect themselves.

- 800 killed in Susa and 75,000 throughout the kingdom.
- Descendants of the Amalekites.
 - “...enemies of the Jews...”
 - “...those who hated them.”
 - “all their enemies...”
- “The LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in the book, and rehearse it in Joshua’s hearing; for I will surely wipe out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. Moses built an altar, and he called it “The LORD is my Banner,” for he said, “For a hand was lifted up to the throne of the LORD — that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.” Exodus 17:14-16
- “So when the LORD your God gives you relief from all the enemies who surround you in the land he is giving you as an inheritance, you must wipe out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven — do not forget!” Duet. 25:19
- “...but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.”

God provides what is necessary for his people to defend and protect themselves from our enemy!

- Ephesians 6:10-18
- James 4: 7-10

The feast of Purim was a holiday instituted by the people of God, not the God of the people!

- Purim is like an Oktoberfest for the Jews.
- It is a time for them to get so drunk that they cannot discern between ‘the Blessed Mordecai and the Cursed Haman.’
 - Passover (Lev. 23:4,5)
 - Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:6-8)
 - First Fruits (Lev. 23:9-14)
 - Weeks [Pentecost] (Lev. 23:15-22)
 - Trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25)
 - Atonement (Lev. 23:26-32)
 - Tabernacles [Booths](Lev. 23:33-43)

What God does we too often take credit for!

God’s power is replaced by man’s recognition.

- 1 Corinthians 1:10-31

Esther reminds us that...

- God is always at work around us fulfilling His plan.