

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Humility of the Church” Esther 4

Sermon Series Title: “The Church of God”

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

Passage Setting: Esther is the last book of the Historical books of the OT. This is over 500 years after King David and less than 500 years before Jesus’ time. Israel is in the middle of Persian captivity after the fall of Babylon, and King Ahasuerus (Artaxerxes) is king. Israel has now been under foreign captivity for at least 120 years at this point. Esther is made queen after Vashti’s rebellious act against her husband. After her cousin and adoptive father, Mordecai, does not pay homage to the prime minister, Haman, Haman gets the king to sign and seal an edict that would kill all the Jews and take their wealth. Mordecai convinces Esther to act to save her people in our story. God is not mentioned in this story, but we see how God is still working and redeeming in the midst of suffering.

Summary: Humility is not thinking less of oneself, but it is thinking of oneself less. We see this humility in the life of Esther who was willing to perish for the sake of her people in suffering. She walked by faith, trusting in God’s sovereignty. This points us to the greater Esther in Jesus who walked by faith and humility to the point of death on the cross for our sake.

Central Truth: “Let us walk in the humility, faith, and grace of Christ.”

Sermon Points:

1. The Setting
2. The Solution
3. The Savior

Opening Question

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1. What does a humble person look like? How a falsely humble person? How do you become humble?

(Answers may vary.)

Humility is to know and believe the truth of ourselves and God. This requires God's people to walk in fellowship and confession in 1 John 1. Another aspect of humility is to think of oneself less and serve others. We see both aspects of humility in Esther's story. Be sure to read the setting before reading our passage today.

Read Esther 4.

2. What does this story teach us about faith in God's sovereignty over His people in the midst of suffering?

(God is not mentioned in this book. It is an artistic expression of how there are circumstances in our lives when it feels like God is not around and we can't see Him working. The edict that Haman put together and Ahasuerus sealed into effect for the mass genocide of the Jewish people is a great example how we feel like God is not present or working.

But we see that God was there the whole time: Vashti's rebellion, Esther being made queen, Mordecai overhearing and reporting Ahasuerus' potential assassination, Ahasuerus' pardon through the scepter, Haman's gallows, Israel's salvation, etc. Even though we don't see God around, He is still there. He is working for the redemption of His people.

We see this ultimately through the intercession of Jesus, the fulfillment of Esther's story. He is the Great Mediator/Intercessor/Servant. He is the One who lived perfectly and yet died the worst death in history for our salvation. God orchestrated all things and used the worst unjust/suffering event in history to enter into our brokenness, provide a Mediator, and redeem us for all eternity.

We might not understand our suffering. We might experience our doubt in God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and love. But through the cross, we see God gives us room to bring our pain and doubt, and He redeems us to Himself.)

3. How does this faith lead us to humble service for one another?

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(Answers will vary.)

Through the fulfillment of Esther's story in Jesus, we are now able to be faithful through suffering. We are able to intercede for one another and be priests for one another. We are able to lay down our rights, comforts, pleasures, power, and all of ourselves to intercede for, love, and serve one another in humility.)

Final Thoughts: *Esther is a fascinating story of God's sovereignty in the midst of brokenness. We see His will of using broken instruments like us to save His people. We see glimpses of the finished work of Jesus, which empowers us to be humble, to love, and to serve one another. May Christ be our center and the cross be our refuge. And through our humble Savior, we can be humble and intercede for one another and this world.*