

What is your favorite thing in the world? _____

- What we are going to talk about today is the fact that everything on earth, other than Jesus, has both good and bad that comes with it.
- An example of this from my life...

Our book of the Bible for today is the Book of Esther:

- Esther in Hebrew means “to be hidden”, which is significant for 2 reasons.
- First, Esther keeps her Jewish heritage hidden
- Second, Esther, along with Song of Songs, are the only 2 books in the entire Bible where God is not mentioned at all.

Summary of the Book of Esther

Setting: Susha the winter capital of Persia

Chronology: Between Ezra and Nehemiah, approximately 479 BC

The story starts with a party, a very long party

- Queen Vashti refuses to come at the King’s request
- Xerxes banishes Vashti, Esther becomes new Queen
- Mordecai uncovers a plot against the King
- Mordecai angers Haman **3:5-6**
- Haman plots not only to kill Mordecai, but all Jews
- Haman persuades the King to sign an edict enacting his plot.
- When Mordecai hears of the edict, he mourns, and asks Esther to use her position to try and help **4:13-14**
- God intervened and the King listened to Esther. She invited Haman and the King to 2 parties.
- In between the King was reminded of Mordecai saving his life, so he honors Mordecai making Haman honor him too.
- At the next party, Esther tells Xerxes about Haman’s plot to kill the Jews. **7:3-4**
- Xerxes was furious, he has Haman hanged.
- Xerxes signs a new edict, allowing the Jews to defend themselves if people try to kill them.
- The book ends with the festival of Purim

Even though God is not mentioned directly by name, his hand is at work all throughout the story.

Look at these situations in the book and tell me that it’s possible not to see God at work.

- Vashti refusing the King
- Mordecai stopping the plot to kill Xerxes
- Xerxes being reminded of Mordecai at just the right time

God can use anything he wants for his plan!

I want to make sure that we see all of those things, because it’s just as easy for us today to play things off as coincidence or explain away happenings without seeing God’s hand in the middle of it all.

One bad thing that sticks out to me in this book is the theme of pride

- Haman’s pride causes his downfall. Xerxes’ pride was hurt by Vashti.
- Esther showed humility and wins the King’s favor, Mordecai showed humility and God placed him in a position of power.
- **Proverbs 16:18** - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

When Mordecai learns of the King’s plot he mourns but notice that he doesn’t turn to God.

- How did God feel about only a small portion of Jews returning home?
- What kept the Jews from returning was their comfort.
- All of the stories in Scripture are there for one purpose, and that is to point each and every person on earth toward our one and only Savior Jesus Christ.

Challenges:

1. take more time this week to think back on your life and see God’s hand in all of your most pivotal moments.
2. Pay attention for moments where your pride gets the best of you this week.
3. Get out of your comfort zone this week

Sermon Title: The Book of Esther

The Good and Bad in Esther

What is your favorite thing in the world? _____

- What we are going to talk about today is the fact that everything on earth, other than Jesus, has both _____ that comes with it.
- An example of this from my life...

Our book of the Bible for today is the Book of Esther:

- Esther in Hebrew means “to be hidden”, which is significant for 2 reasons.
- First, Esther keeps her Jewish heritage hidden
- Second, Esther, along with Song of Songs, are the only 2 books in the entire Bible where God is not mentioned at all.

Summary of the Book of Esther

Setting: Sushan the winter capital of Persia

Chronology: Between Ezra and Nehemiah, approximately 479 BC

The story starts with a party, a very long party

- Queen Vashti refuses to come at the King’s request
- Xerxes banishes Vashti, Esther becomes new Queen
- Mordecai uncovers a plot against the King
- Mordecai angers Haman **3:5-6**
- Haman plots not only to kill Mordecai, but all Jews
- Haman persuades the King to sign an edict enacting his plot.
- When Mordecai hears of the edict, he mourns, and asks Esther to use her position to try and help **4:13-14**
- God intervened and the King listened to Esther. She invited Haman and the King to 2 parties.
- In between the King was reminded of Mordecai saving his life, so he honors Mordecai making Haman honor him too.
- At the next party, Esther tells Xerxes about Haman’s plot to kill the Jews. **7:3-4**
- Xerxes was furious, he has Haman hanged.
- Xerxes signs a new edict, allowing the Jews to defend themselves if people try to kill them.
- The book ends with the festival of Purim

Even though God is not mentioned directly by name, _____ is at work all throughout the story.

Look at these situations in the book and tell me that it’s possible not to see God at work.

- Vashti refusing the King
- Mordecai stopping the plot to kill Xerxes
- Xerxes being reminded of Mordecai at just the right time

God can use anything he wants for his plan!

I want to make sure that we see all of those things, because it’s just as easy for us today to play things off as coincidence or explain away happenings without seeing God’s hand in the middle of it all.

One bad thing that sticks out to me in this book is the theme of _____

- Haman’s pride causes his downfall. Xerxes’ pride was hurt by Vashti.
- Esther showed humility and wins the King’s favor, Mordecai showed humility and God placed him in a position of power.
- **Proverbs 16:18** - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

When Mordecai learns of the King’s plot he mourns but notice that he doesn’t turn to God.

- How did God feel about only a small portion of Jews returning home?
- What kept the Jews from returning was their _____.
- All of the stories in Scripture are there for one purpose, and that is to point each and every person on earth toward our one and only Savior Jesus Christ.

Challenges:

1. take more time this week to think back on your life and see God’s hand in all of your most pivotal moments.
2. Pay attention for moments where your pride gets the best of you this week.
3. Get out of your _____ this week

Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Esther 3:5-6 - “And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. ⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.”

Esther 4:13-14 - ““Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Esther 7:3-4- “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king.”

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.