

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

For Such a Time as This

Week 3: Our Commitment

Esther 3:1-13

Week of November 8, 2020

(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Mordecai took a bold step in devotion to God. Unfortunately, his led to disaster for all Jews. Sometimes our obedience only leads to trouble. We must obey anyway! Providence is not a guarantee that life will go smoothly. God has always allowed his children to face difficulty.

Kicking it off: Jeff's sermon began with a breakfast of bacon and eggs. What is your favorite breakfast?

Discussion:

1. Jeff pointed out that Mordecai's presence in Persia indicates that he chose to take a pass on the opportunity to return to Jerusalem and contribute to the rebuilding. What does this choice tell us about Mordecai?
2. Reread *Esther 3:1-2* King Xerxes honored Haman, the Agagite, elevating him to a seat of honor higher than all the other nobles. All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this. Mordecai would not kneel down or pay Haman honor.

Give an example of a situation that would require a follower of the Lord to act differently than the masses.

3. Reread *Esther 3:4* Mordecai told them that he was a Jew.

Why did this take courage?

4. Reread *Esther 5-6* Haman was enraged. Having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all the Jews.

Mordecai's courageous obedience led to a disaster for the Jewish people. Sometimes our obedience to the Lord can lead to trouble. Can you think of any examples of this?

5. Reread *Daniel 3:17-18* "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. Your Majesty, he will rescue us. But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you that we will never worship your gold statue."

Mordecai's decision not to bow to Haman is similar to these verses from the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. What do you appreciate about these verses?

6. Mordecai's decision not to bow represents growth in his devotion to the Lord. Can you think of a time when your devotion to Christ grew? What triggered that increased commitment?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that God would help us all embrace unconditional and complete commitment to the cause of Christ.