

Sunday, November 16, 2025
Battleground's CCLI: 11403295 CLSL: CSPL142794

The Rescue Of The People Of God: The Rise Of Esther And Mordecai Esther 5-6

Main idea: Living by faith in God's sovereign providence does not mean we will not be called to take risks for the cause of Christ and His people. In Christ, we are part of God's great reversal story.

Introduction

- Does risk play any part in the Christian life?

"Esther's decision signals her full identification with her people, despite the cost."

The Ruse Of Esther - (5:1-9a)

- Esther's courageous yet risky plan - **Psalm 37:7**
- What's better than one feast? Just one more!
- Haman buys in hook, line, and sinker - **v. 9a; Proverbs 15:6**

The Plans Of Haman - (5:9-14)

- Haman's plans seem to be working, but...
- Mordecai's continued obstinacy

"Haman's happiness hinges on one man's respect; such fragile joy always collapses."

- Haman's homelife is revealing

"Haman's home reflects his values: honor is prized above justice or restraint."

- God's plans are unstoppable - **Isaiah 46:9-10**
- Beware with whom we surround ourselves

The Rise of Mordecai - (6:1-14)

- God-given insomnia - **Psalm 121:4-8**
- God-given reversal

"When God begins to reverse the story, the proud fall faster than they rose."

- God-given dishonor

- The irony parade
- The proud is humbled - **Proverbs 16:18**

So What?

- Am I part of God great reversal story?
 - **Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 2:5-6**
- When is risk right?
 - The futility of playing it safe - **James 4:13-15**
 - Risk is right when it magnifies Jesus Christ - **Philippians 1:20-21**
 - Risk is right when it is attempted for the cause of Christ and the good of His people - **2 Corinthians 11:24-28; Acts 20:24; 1 Peter 4:11**

“If our single, all-embracing passion is to make much of Christ in life and death, and if the life that magnifies him most is the life of costly love, then life is risk, and risk is right. To run from it is to waste your life.”

- John Piper

Now What? (Growth Group Discussion)

***Leader's Notes

- How hard is it for me to make decisions? Can an “unmade” decision be worse than a bad decision?
- Reflect on this quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *“To delay or fail to make decisions may be more sinful than to make wrong decisions out of faith and love.”*
 - Risk avoidance may be more sinful—more unloving—than taking the risk in faith and love and making a wrong decision.
- Reflect on **Esther 4:15-16**. What drove Esther’s decision? What would have been the cost of not acting? Why was she resolved to take the risk?
 - “If I perish, I perish.” What does that mean? It means that Esther did not know what the outcome of her act would be. She had no special revelation from God. She made her decision on the basis of wisdom and love for her people and trust in God. She had to risk or run. She did not know how it would turn out. So she made her decision and handed the results over to God. “If I perish, I perish.” And this was right.
- What are we called to risk for the cause of Christ? His people and this lost world?