

All Creatures Great and Small > Esther 9:1 - 10:3

9:1-15 As Esther concludes, we see several pictures that bring the story full circle. These first verses detail what the Jews did in defending themselves and how they accomplished it.

9:16-32 The second half of the chapter details the origins of Purim, the Jewish holiday named after the “lots” that were cast by Haman. Not only is this history to be remembered for all time, but it is also to be a celebration filled with gladness.

10:1-3 Lastly, we read of the rise of Mordecai, which comes not by promoting himself, but from his service to others.

Context: The decree of Mordecai called the Jews to defend themselves against Haman’s wicked plans. Chapters 9 and 10 show the conclusion of what had been fasted for: Mordecai and Esther are safe, and the Jewish people are victorious.

Aim: Remembering how the Lord has worked – in ways large and small, through all kinds of people – is crucial to our faith.

Gospel: This kind of “remembering” isn’t just for others – Jesus Himself called all who follow Him to remember His sacrifice through the act of communion (Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24). Therefore we, too, are called to regularly remember the mighty acts of the Lord.

Applications: Fear of the Lord and traditions that remind us of His work – those are not bad things. If you don’t have some regular method of remembering Christ’s work in your life, then consider finding a way to do so. Looking to the Lord repeatedly will provide ballast in a world of ever-changing currents: it will give hope, perspective, and build faith.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____

Announcements

If you are interested in helping with our DiscipleQuest mailings for children this fall, please see Terry Hinders. Also: if you have/care for children who would like to be on the mailing list (and haven't signed up for DQ before), please let the office know and we'll add them to the mailing list.

A reminder: we would like to grow our list of ushers so that we can have a rotating team each Sunday. If you are interested in finding out what part you could play in that ministry, please see Lee Hinders for more details.

Pastor Kevin will be out of the office this week due to a study/planning leave. If you have any needs during this time, please contact the church office and they will connect you with one of our overseers.

Prayer

Blessed Jesus, we can add nothing to you, nothing to your glory, and what a wonderful truth that is: we have heart-filled joy that you are what you are and that you save who you save. We praise you that you are at the right hand of God, and we look to you as you prepare to return and make all things new.

This morning, let our longing be to more fully and clearly behold your glory, according to your prayer and promise. Change us this day. Form us to be more like who you have called us to be. Change how we think. Reform our words. Bring about a revolution in our hearts. Lord, don't let us become Pharisees who are so jaded by talking about and handling your holy truths that we somehow become numb to them, or think them unremarkable, or something not to be celebrated. Instead, help us today to wonder anew at what you have done and will accomplish. Recapture in us our attention and imagination and longing to know you more fully. Then, let this work have its full effect in how we love and serve one another and our community. In Christ, amen.

(adapted from words originally written by John Owen)