

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition of Ruth and Esther #15

The Clash of Two Edicts – One Against and One For God's People
Esther 9:1-19

I. The Day Comes

- A.** Two forces
 - One of destruction
 - One of survival
- B.** The intensity in the nation has changed
 - From kill the Jews
 - To cheer for the Jews
- C.** In Susa
 - 500 enemies killed
 - The 10 sons of Haman
- D.** The King inquires
 - "How did it go?"
 - Esther tells him
 - What else can I do for you?
 - One more day – clean up
 - Hang the 10 sons of Haman on his gallows
- E.** One more day
 - 300 more in Susa
 - Public display of Haman's sons
- F.** Report
 - 75,000 in empire
 - 810 in Susa
 - No plunder taken
- G.** Great celebration
 - 2 days
 - Gift giving

II. Issues

- A.** Be prepared to seize the right opportunity when it is presented, then go ahead and seize it
- B.** Justice can be achieved despite every outward appearance of inflexibility of an unjust law or action
 - Our story
 - Slavery

- Independence from England
- Fall of the Berlin Wall

- C.** God's people should never give up when facing seemingly impossible odds, because God is at work behind what we see to bring about a reversal of fortune
 - China 1949
 - Auca Indians
- D.** The wise or unwise use of political power exerts great control of its people
 - Xerxes
 - Haman
 - Esther
 - Mordecai

III. Thoughts

- A.** You can trust God's Word
 - My people will survive
 - My enemies will be destroyed
 - What are His promises to you?
- B.** His ways are not our ways
 - Moses – Amalekites – miracle
 - Judges – the Spirit of the Lord upon them – miracles
 - Esther and Mordecai – example of how God works today – through the situations of everyday life God accomplishes His purposes. We don't even know if they knew God was using them.
 - Providence not miracles
 - Trust (faith) in what God promises, not on how He's going to do it
- C.** An encouragement to faith
 - Contrast with sight
 - God's presence and power in your life is a faith issue
 - God's plan of redemption moves ahead – II Peter 3:3-7
 - Faith in Hebrews 11:1 – "Assurance of things hoped for certainty of things not seen."
 - We live believing that God is working in us and through us even when we cannot see it.
 - The Lord's Supper