

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition of Ruth and Esther #16

A Pur---fect Ending or Remember Again!
Esther 9:20-10:3

I. The Text

- A.** Times have changed VS 20-23
- B.** Remember what happened
 - The days of Purim VS 24-28
- C.** Fixed for all time VS 29-32
- D.** Taxes – one thing you can count on VS 10:1
- E.** Keeping records VS 10:2
- F.** A good leader VS 10:3
 - Uses power
 - For the good of the people
 - And the welfare of his family – the Jews

II. Issues

- A.** Remembering has a long history in the Bible
 - The Exodus – Passover
 - Journey through the wilderness
 - Pillars and towers of rocks to remember a great act of God
 - Most of their feasts looked backward
 - The stories of the Bible are written so they can be remembered
 - The Lord's Supper – "In remembrance of Me"
- B.** We've all had experiences with others in our lives (parents, friends, siblings, etc.) and when we remember we experience it again. It's like it's happening all over again. Feel, smell, hear, see, etc.

- C.** To remember means:
 - Hear again the story
 - What did God do?
 - How did it affect His people?
 - Put yourself in the story – make it personal
 - Is God still affecting me today this way
 - Why or why not?
 - Worship God for who He is and what He is doing

- D.** When we read the Bible if we can put ourselves in the story and understand what God is doing here and make it ours, we are remembering. Remembering is an essential to growing in our faith.

III. Final Thoughts On Ruth and Esther

- A.** Both books start at A and end at Z. What happens between A and Z is God at work even if they didn't see it, know it, or understand it!
- B.** This is the way faith sees life. As we follow Him, He is working with us, in us and through us to accomplish His will in our lives.
- C.** Remember the times you did see God work and trust that when you don't see it He still is.