

Discussion Guide

Heart Check: Messengers wk3 Timely Messenger, Esther

May 14, 2023



Big Idea

God invites us to be His messenger in the positions & seasons of life in which we find ourselves.



Icebreaker

With summer in sight, do you have any special plans coming up (i.e. vacations, throwing a graduation or family party, attending a family reunion, camping trips, etc.)?



Discussion Questions

1. The sermon started by sharing how the Book of Esther never mentions whose name? Despite that, He is all over the Book. What are some examples of how and where He is in this Book, though not named? Do you have any examples to share regarding areas of our society and world today where, though He is not directly named or given credit, He is very present? How do you recognize that?
2. Read Esther 3:2-6. What, at its root, enraged Haman regarding Mordecai? What in Haman caused him to not just want to destroy Mordecai, but all of Mordecai's people (the Jews)? What are examples today of where we see people inferring something about an entire people group based on the actions of some within that people group? Why can this be unhealthy? What is the remedy to such situations? Have you ever been put in a "group" like this? What was that like? Have you ever put others in a "group" like this? Was/is that fair? If you think it was not/is not fair, did your remedy it, and if so, how?
3. Read Esther 4:8-16. Summarize in your own words what Mordecai's request of Esther was; her initial response; his rebuttal; her response to his rebuttal. Now re-read Esther 4:16. In this verse what several things do we see that are important to Esther, and that are a part of her character?
4. Esther was brave ("*...if I perish, I perish.*"). What is bravery &/or courage defined? How may bravery be required for you to take your next step in being God's Messenger via you're your time, treasure (\$), or talent as you prayerfully consider allowing God to change you this Heart Check series?
5. In Esther 4:16 we also see wisdom on her part regarding timing & the reliance upon other people's help with the situation at hand. For example, what does she do before jumping into action? We see her further extend wisdom regarding time in the way that holds a "relationship-building banquet" in chapter 5 prior to exposing Haman in chapter 7 at another banquet. Give an example from your experience where timing & relationship were important to the use of one's influence to be a messenger of change?



Concluding Question

Esther had an interesting background and was an interesting person. There were things that could have held her back from accepting God's invitation to be His Messenger at this time where He needed her to be. She had a complicated family history. She had the quality of beauty that could have overshadowed other important qualities she possessed. She had position but under strict restrictions leaving her likely feeling both powerful, but yet powerless. What position are you in where you could be a timely messenger? What is holding you back? What can you do to move past that?



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Pray for continued racial healing in our local communities, city, and country!