

Esther Study Lesson 10 - Personal Application

As the original Jewish readers read the Esther account, they would have been struck by the way God was sovereignly protecting them, often when they did not even know it. Many things in the Book of Esther happened that were beyond anyone's control except that of God, who oversees history.

And the Book of Esther is filled with irony, with ways in which events turned out unexpectedly and in favor of God's people. Queen Vashti, a Persian, was deposed so that Esther, a Jewess, could become queen and save her people. Haman, once exalted, was brought low, and **Mordecai** and **the Jews**, once hated, were exalted and honored.

A decree that would have wiped out the Jews was overruled by one which led to the destruction of nearly 76,000 enemies of the Jews! No wonder Purim was celebrated yearly with such rejoicing: *to help the Jews remember that God is in control and that people should faithfully worship and serve their great God.*

Have you grown in your understanding of God's sovereignty through our study? Have you learned to embrace His providence? Have you applied what you've learned to unexpected/unpleasant/unwanted circumstances in your life? In our church? As a faith foundation for your future walk?

Below are a few of the major principles/concepts found during our study. There are many more. Please take some time to review our book's lessons & the teaching notes, meditating on the Scriptures and truths which have been pertinent and asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and insight.

- ***The Lord may allow hardship, but He is still in control.***
- ***Pride debases a man, but humility lifts him up.***
- ***God gives His people the words to speak at the right time.***
- ***God's people should live above reproach.***
- ***Provoking others leads to wrath.***
- ***God puts us where He wants us for His specific purposes.***
- ***We are responsible for obedience, and God is responsible for what follows.***

QUESTIONS for reflection & consideration:

1. Which of the concepts/truths or principles regarding God's providence have you found most challenging? Why?

2. What aspects of being an "Instrument in the Redeemer's Hands" are you already doing in your life? Which areas need strengthening?

3. To which of the characters that we've studied are you able to relate? Why? How might you emulate that person in your own life?

4. (Personal) Have you taken a definite stand for Jesus Christ? Have you accepted His free gift of salvation? If not, what is preventing you from doing so?

5. In what areas of your life have you been convicted during this study? What will you do to address these convictions? Be specific.

6. What have you learned about the character of God? How has this insight affected your worship and prayer life? Your faith walk? Your involvement in the faith community?

7. What are some specific things you want to see God do in your life in the coming months? What are some things you intend to change in your own life during that time?
Return to this list in one month and hold yourself accountable to fulfil these things.

Throughout our study in Esther we have seen an illustration of what it looks like to walk with God's plan and what it looks like to walk in God's opposing plan. We have identified in many lessons the need to be in God's word, to praise Him, to hide His word in our hearts and certainly the importance of singing to worship our great God.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,	His purposes will ripen fast,
But trust Him for His grace"	Unfolding ev'ry hour;
Behind a frowning providence	The bud may have a bitter taste,
He hides a smiling face.	But sweet will be the flowe'r

Stanzas from "God Moves in Mysterious Ways"

Truths from God's Mysterious Ways
Jane Roach

- God providentially weaves His plans for the world, the Jews and individuals into His perfect plan of redemption.
- God knows the future and providentially orders current events to accomplish His purpose
- Some choices have irreversible consequences in God's irrevocable plan
- Some choices have unforeseen blessings in God's irrevocable plan
- God providentially prepares His people and circumstances to accomplish His purposes,
- God providentially uses world powers to accomplish His purposes.
- God's redeemed people live in two worlds but are defined by one of them.
- Preparing for God's service may take years.
- God's providential love for His people is greater than evil plots against them.
- God accomplishes His purposes through the evil schemes of powerful people.
- God will not allow His people to be eradicated by His enemies.
- God providentially uses confusion and chaos to develop faith in His people.
- God's people have access to God in every circumstance.
- The best option always comes from God.
- Identification with God and His purposes involves courage and resolution.
- God providentially controls the battle between good and evil to accomplish His purposes.
- God honors the respectful and humble.
- God lets the revengeful and prideful self-destruct.
- God writes our biographies in accord with His divine sovereignty and our human responsibility.
- God is sovereign over details.
- God holds people responsible for their actions.
- God is always on time – never early and never late.
- God's salvation and deliverance initiate a new life of gratitude, peace, and joy.
- Finishing God's task for you inaugurates peace and joy.
- A grateful heart expresses thanks to God for His protection and deliverance.
- God's measure of greatness is humility.
- God's chief end is to display His glory. "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Answer 1)