

MAKE THE MOST OF LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES

Esther • May 30, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

CHARACTER LESSONS

May 30, 2010	Esther – “Make The Most of Life’s Circumstances”
June 6, 2010.....	Jonah – “Second Chances”
June 13, 2010	Ruth – “Keys to a Great Friendship”
June 20, 2010	Youth Choir Presentation
June 27, 2010	Aaron – “We Need Each Other”
July 4, 2010	July 4 th Choir Presentation
July 11, 2010	Elijah – “How To Be Bold for God”

We encourage you to read the book of Jonah (Old Testament) this week in preparation for next Sunday’s message.

Esther 4:1-5:3 (NLT) ¹ When Mordecai learned about all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on burlap and ashes, and went out into the city, crying with a loud and bitter wail. ² He went as far as the gate of the palace, for no one was allowed to enter the palace gate while wearing clothes of mourning. ³ And as news of the king’s decree reached all the provinces, there was great mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept, and wailed, and many people lay in burlap and ashes. ⁴ When Queen Esther’s maids and eunuchs came and told her about Mordecai, she was deeply distressed. She sent clothing to him to replace the burlap, but he refused it. ⁵ Then Esther sent for Hathach, one of the king’s eunuchs who had been appointed as her attendant. She ordered him to go to Mordecai and find out what was troubling him and why he was in mourning. ⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the square in front of the palace gate. ⁷ Mordecai told him the whole story, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸ Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. ⁹ So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai’s message. ¹⁰ Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: ¹¹ “All the king’s officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days.” ¹² So Hathach gave Esther’s message to Mordecai. ¹³ Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. 14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”

Main Characters in the Book of Esther:

- King Xerxes
- Esther
- Mordecai
- Haman

Two Important Truths:

1) God is _____

of our life and He wants to accomplish His plan through us.

- See Esther 4:14

When we have a proper understanding of who God is, we realize there is no such thing as luck or chance.

Two Important Things to Keep in Mind:

a) God’s plan will _____ and He can make bad into good even in the midst of another person’s sin.

God always gets us where He intends for us to go!

b) It may take _____ or even a life time to understand and make sense of certain things that happen in our lives.

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." ¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him. ¹ On the third day of the fast, Esther put on her royal robes and entered the inner court of the palace, just across from the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne, facing the entrance. ² When he saw Queen Esther standing there in the inner court, he welcomed her and held out the gold scepter to her. So Esther approached and touched the end of the scepter. ³ Then the king asked her, "What do you want, Queen Esther? What is your request? I will give it to you, even if it is half the kingdom!"

Romans 8:28 (NLT) ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

John 14:15 (NLT) ¹⁵ "If you love me, obey my commandments.

James 1:5 (NLT) ⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

2) God wants us to honor Him and _____
_____ as we respond to the circumstances in our lives.

- See Romans 8:28 and John 14:15

God's promise to make good come from bad has two conditions.

In the story of Esther, God's will was accomplished because both Esther and Mordecai were committed to do the right thing.

Five Things We Learn From Esther:

- 1) Esther asked others to _____ for her.
 - See Esther 4:16
- 2) Esther prayed and asked God for _____.
 - See Esther 4:16 and James 1:5
- 3) Esther dealt with the issue in a _____.
- 4) Esther committed to do the right thing regardless of the _____.
- 5) Esther _____ followed through with what she believed God wanted her to do.

***What do you need to do
in response to today's message?***