



## To Please The King

Sunday: 7/16/2023 – Esther 2:1-18 Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

*God providentially cares for us and fulfills his saving purposes even through our compromises and failures.”*

### Overview

Pastor Lenard led us through Esther 2 this week. We were reminded that like Esther and Mordecai we live like exiles in this world. One of the challenges we see in this narrative is the question of assimilation. We can compare and contrast Esther to Daniel and see differences of how they interacted or assimilated into the culture of their exile. We are challenged to ask: Are we that much different? Pastor Lenard presented the idea that Esther is not exactly presented as the moral model to strive after, she is the anti-Vashti. Esther may not have been living how she should but through her God she accomplishes his purposes. The question Esther 2 raises isn't "can we be good enough for God to use us?" The correct questions for us to ask are:

- Does God still care for his people when we go astray?
- Are we relying on God or our ourselves?
- Are we trying to earn his favor?

We walked away from this sermon knowing that we live to please God because he is worthy.

### Outline

- ❖ Recognize ugly, self-serving overreaches of authority (1-4)
- ❖ Know that God governs your gifts, Times, and places (5-7)
- ❖ Acknowledge the ways you have assimilated (8-11)
- ❖ Rely on God's Favor and faithful care (12-18)

### Corroborating Texts

1 Corinthians 4:4, Genesis 2:24, Romans 12:2

### Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Lenard asked us to acknowledge times when we have lived like chameleons. What does living like a chameleon look like?
  - a. Can you share an example of a time when you did not stand up for your faith when you should of?
2. How does the knowledge that Esther is not presented as a moral example strike you?
  - a. In what way can the knowledge that God governs your gifts, times, and places change you?
3. Pastor Lenard provided the contrast of trying to live to earn God's favor or living a life to please God because he is worthy. What are practical steps you need to take to rely on God and his faithful care?
4. What practical steps can you take this week to resist conforming to this world and renew your mind with the truth of the Gospel?
5. Was there anything else from the sermon that you wanted to discuss?

**Gather – Grow – Practice – Go**