

The Serpent Strikes Back

Sunday: 7/23/2023 – Esther 2:19-3:15 Pastor Lenard Tavernelli



"Though we face powerful and coercive ancient enemies, you can trust God to save and honor his people at the proper time."

Overview

In this week's passage we saw Mordecai thwart a plan against his king. Mordecai didn't receive any honor for his loyalty. After this injustice, Mordecai found himself in major conflict with the king's man, Haman, over another issue of honor. From this passage Pastor Lenard reminded us of the perpetual war we are in with the enemy, even if we are not aware of it. Mordecai did not know that the injustice he received was part of God's plan and care for him. As the conflict with Haman grew into a genocidal rage, there was great fear of the unknown. This fear reveals a lack of trust. From the conflict over honor and worship with Haman, Pastor Lenard reminded us that we are inherently religious, that we worship every moment of every day. The enraged Haman reminds us that our world will not allow us to silently stand by. Our world is trying to force you to assimilate, celebrate, and to take part in what it worships. Not taking part comes at great expense. From this passage in Esther Pastor Lenard showed us that we can:

1. Trust God to honor you at the proper time (2:19-23)
2. Trust God when facing ancient spiritual enemies (3:1-6)
3. Trust God when facing threatening or coercive powers (3:7-15)

Corroborating Texts

Gen 3:15, 1 Peter 5:6, Exodus 17:16, Deut 25:17-19, Eph 6:12, Rev 13:9-10, Prov 16:33, Col 2:13-15, Eph 1:21,

Discussion Questions

1. Mordecai was overlooked for an achievement (saving the king). We all have likely experienced being passed over or not getting the credit we deserve. Can you describe how you felt during this kind of life event?
 - a. What do your feelings reveal about your trust in God?
 - b. Can you trust your feelings as a reliable guide? Explain." (Since we can act against our feelings.)
2. What does Haman's response reveal about his character? What does Mordecai's response reveal about him?
 - a. What does your response when you're wronged reveal about you?
3. Pastor Lenard made the case that not assimilating and celebrating our world's objects of worship will come at great cost. What are practical steps you can take to trust God in times of conflict with the world?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon or the passage?

Gather – Grow – Practice – Go