

Week 3: Responding to Evil

Key Scripture

Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the entire kingdom of Xerxes.

Esther 3:6

The Path of Wrath

Haman's Promotion (3:1-6)

Haman's Plan (3:7-11)

Haman's Proclamation (3:12-15)

How do we respond to evil?

1. Recognize it

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.

Isaiah 5:20

2. Love others

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.

Luke 10:27

For personal reflection or group discussion.

- Based on our study of Esther so far, give a one or two word description of each: Vashti, Xerxes, Esther, Mordecai, Haman.
- Haman is filled with rage in this passage. Have you ever known a person who got mad and never got over it? What are they like today?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Why did Haman become furious with Mordecai? What reasons do you think Mordecai refused to pay homage to Haman? (verses to consider: Ex. 20:3-6; Deut. 25:17-19; Matthew 4:10)
- In what ways was the suggested decree to the king full of deceit? Verse 8. (hint: he didn't even tell the king it was the Jews he was speaking of)

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- Why is abuse of power seen as particularly unjust?
- Read 1 Samuel 15:2-3, 7-11. What are the spiritual lessons from a violent story like this?

Read Scripture about responding to evil.

Romans 12:21

Romans 14:16

Ephesians 6:12

Matthew 6:13

Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

Heavenly Father, thank you that you have a plan even when circumstances surrounding us look bleak. Thank you that you have not and never will forget us nor forsake us. Let us be a people who are willing to take a stand for you. We thank you that you protect us from the enemy and that his plans for us will not prevail. In Jesus name, Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.

- Read through the book of Esther in one sitting. What jumps out at you? Share what God is teaching you with a friend or family member.



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