



WEEK 2. Where is God?

On Sunday Pastor Josh continued in our sermon series titled “Choices” by finishing up the second half of Esther’s story. He helped us see how underlining the Esther story is the key question: Where is God? We’ll continue exploring this question in lifegroup tonight as we pick up in a story that takes in between the key stories that Pastor Josh preached on over the last two weeks. In this text, King Xerxes happens to not be able to sleep, which ultimately results in him unintentionally saving Mordecai’s life from Haman’s plot. In continuing with the theme Pastor Josh preached on this past Sunday, even in this story we can see how God is present even when it’s not necessarily obvious.

Follow-Up Question (from last week): Have we had any opportunities in this last week to choose to believe (or come to observe) that God might have us in our spheres or situations for such a time like this?

Introduction Question: Has there ever been a time when you wondered where God was? What happened (whether it was resolved and they could see where God was in the end or unresolved)?

Bible Study: Esther 5:9-6:10

5:9 Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king’s gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai. **10** Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home. Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, **11** Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. **12** “And that’s not all,” Haman added. “I’m the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. **13** But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king’s gate.” **14** His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself.” This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.

6:1 That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. **2** It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. **3** "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. **4** The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the palace to speak to the king about impaling Mordecai on the pole he had set up for him. **5** His attendants answered, "Haman is standing in the court." "Bring him in," the king ordered. **6** When Haman entered, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought to himself, "Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?" **7** So he answered the king, "For the man the king delights to honor, **8** have them bring a royal robe the king has worn and a horse the king has ridden, one with a royal crest placed on its head. **9** Then let the robe and horse be entrusted to one of the king's most noble princes. Let them robe the man the king delights to honor, and lead him on the horse through the city streets, proclaiming before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king delights to honor!'" **10** "Go at once," the king commanded Haman. "Get the robe and the horse and do just as you have suggested for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Do not neglect anything you have recommended."

Either in a large group or in small groups of 3-4:

- 1) What strikes you about this story?
- 2) What do we learn about God?
- 3) What do we learn about people?
- 4) What might God be trying to say to me through this passage?
- 5) Are there places in my life currently where it's hard for me to see where God is? How might I choose to believe that God is present?
- 6) Pray for each other, especially for those who are struggling to see where God is.