

ESTHER

God - Silent But Not Absent



Esther – Pride

Date: Sunday 17th September 2017

Speakers: Adam Pipe, Joanna Ramdas-Harsia

Key Verses: Esther 3 & 4

Summary

- Throughout the story of Esther we see Haman's great pride, how it effects his relationships and how, ultimately, it leads to his downfall. Esther is, as we've looked at in the last 2 weeks, a story of roll reversal. With Esther and Mordecai starting in a place of powerlessness, then ending in positions of great power. While Haman starts in a position of great power, but ultimately loses everything.
- Pride is self-obsession, comparison with others and both an air of superiority or inferiority. It separates us from God and others and results in us getting the opposite of what we want.
- We can see pride in ourselves in many ways, these being some of them, listed by Jonathan Edwards: Fault-Finding, A Harsh Spirit, Superficiality/Putting on Pretences, defensiveness/taking offence easily, being presumptuous, desperation for attention and neglecting others.
- We humble ourselves by focusing on God, it's not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. Look at Philippians' 2:1-11, Jesus was the ultimate example of humility.
- It's not easy, getting past our humanity can be painful and we can't do it without God. See <http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/my-dragon-skin-torn-off> for a great example from C.S Lewis' book The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

Questions for small groups

- Look up proverbs that relate to pride and discuss what they mean and how to apply them:
Proverbs 8:13, 11:2, 13:10, 14:3, 16:18, 29:23
- What are some practical ways we can humble ourselves on a daily basis? At home, school/college/university, in the workplace, church etc...

Other Resources to go deeper

- The Message of Esther – David G. Firth
A really helpful commentary on the book of Esther, helpful for personal devotion or planning group study
- Check out this article on Pride & Humility - http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/Pride_and_Humility_SinglePage
- Mere Christianity – C. S. Lewis – Chapter 8 ‘The Great Sin’
In this chapter, from a fantastic book, Lewis breaks down the issue of pride.