

WOMEN'S STUDY IN ESTHER

Lesson 11 Chapter 8:9-17

As you read through Esther and begin this study, ask God to open your heart. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law".
Psalm 119:18

Assignment: In the next week read through Esther, especially chapter 8. Attempt to answer the following discussion questions.

Questions:

- 1) Summarize chapter by chapter (up to chapter 7) what has happened in Esther so far.

- 2) Answer questions 15-19. (You will add to you answers in the end of the lesson too)

- 3) Explain what happened in chapter 8:1-8. How does what happened in 8:9 relate to what happened earlier in the chapter?

- 4) How much time had passed since Haman's edict? (See 3:12 and 8:9)

- 5) How was Mordechai's command made known to the people and executed (8:9-10)? How did this differ from how Haman's command was made known (3:12-13)?

- 6) Describe in detail what Mordechai commanded in the king's name (8:10-12)?

- 7) How did Mordechai's decree differ from Haman's original decree?

- 8) What was to be issued and why (8:13)?

- 9) What thus happened and in what manner (8:14)?

- 10) How was Mordechai honored as he left the king (8:15a)? What is the significance of this? Remember when Haman thought he was the man the king was to honor, what had he told the king to do for that man? Who received that honor? (see 6:8-11, 8:15)

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- 11) How did the city of Susa respond to the decree and why (8:15-16)?

- 12) How did every province and city respond when the king's command and edict reached them (8:17a)?

- 13) How did some non-Jews throughout the land respond and why (8:17b)?

- 14) Although the new decree did not revoke the old decree, how would Mordecai's decree counteract the first decree?

- 15) Do you see the difficulties in this life through the lens of faith? What areas do you need to renew your mind with the following truth? (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28-39)

- 16) Will you trust the Lord with all your heart? (Proverbs 3:5-8)

- 17) Are you a woman of prayer (which reveals a dependence on the Lord, praying about everything? (1Thes. 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6-7, Luke 2:36-37)

- 18) As you face difficulty, are you willing to be strong and courageous in the Lord? (See Joshua 1:7-9)

- 19) Will you obey the Lord no matter what? (Prov. 3:1-2, Philippians 2:12-13)

- 20) God sovereignly caused Haman's evil scheme to return on his own head (9:25) and the Jews were spared. Yet God did this by the means of a faithful woman's' (Esther) praying, trusting and courageously obeying. In what area(s) is the Lord calling you to be prayerfully trust in Him and act? Whether great or small, has God sovereignly put you in a place for "such a time is this"?