



“From Sorrow Into Gladness”
Esther 8:1-10:3
Sermon Date: September 5th, 2010

Prayer:

Thank the Lord this week that through His Son our sorrow has been turned to gladness. For we were once dead in our sin, but now through Christ we have been made alive. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to see clearly how the story of Esther points to Christ and His greatness.

Scripture:

Read Esther 8:1-10:3 and summarize the events that take place in each of the sections below.

Esther 8:1-16 –

Esther 9:1-19–

Esther 9:20-32 –

Esther 10:1-3 –

Study Questions:

In chapters 8 and 9 we clearly see God orchestrating the victory of the Jewish people over their enemies. He too has orchestrated the victory over our enemies. According to 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, who is the enemy we have victory over through Christ? Are you living as though you have been made victorious over these enemies? Why or why not?

Even after the king had declared that the Jewish people could defend themselves, a contingency of about 500 men (9:6) who hated the Jews, still tried to attack and annihilate them. There was clearly a deep rooted hatred for God’s people that existed in their hearts. In what ways do we still see this hatred for God’s chosen people today? What did Jesus tell us about this hatred in Luke 21:10-19 and John 15:18-27?

Describe the Feast of Purim as it is explained in Esther 9:20-32. What were the Jews commemorating during their celebration? We as Christians also celebrate a holiday in which we recognize God’s victory over our enemies, what is that holiday? Are you as joyful on that day as the Jews are during the Feast of Purim?

Now that we have concluded the story of Esther, list all of the ways in which Christ is clearly seen in this story. Explain how Christ is the real and better Esther. Explain how He is the real and better Mordecai. Why is it important that we read this story from a Christ centered perspective and not just to get moral and ethical teachings from it?

“The Bible is the greatest storybook, not just because it is full of wonderful stories but because it tells one great story, the story of Jesus.”

Edmund P. Clowney