

# Life Group Discussion Questions

## May 13, 2012

### **Series: Esther**

**Sermon Topic:** And They Lived...- Esther 7,8 & 9 - Dr. Matt Cassidy

**Introduction:** We concluded our last week of our study of Esther with several ironic God-sized twists of fate to wrap up this story. We learned to fully trust God when our circumstances are unchangeable yet life demands that we must go on.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. Read Chapter 7-9 reflect on the Matt's sermon and discuss the following question in your group.
  - a) In how many different ways did Haman's wife's prediction (6:13) come true in 7:8-8:8 and 8:15?
  - b) Why couldn't the king simply revoke Haman's edict, as Esther requested in 8:5? Can you think of any other Medo-Persian edict in the Bible which also couldn't be revoked? See Daniel 6.
  - c) Why did the Jews **not** confiscate the property of their enemies as recorded in the new edict? Why did Mordecai even include it in the new edict authorizing a Holy war?
  - d) How much is your sin going to cost me? We learned from the story of Esther that we cannot always change our circumstances; but we can change what we do with it. What circumstances in your life are beyond your control that directly affect where you are currently at? Your birth family, nationality or social economical upbringing? Your natural talents, learned skills and traits? Discuss with your group the circumstances of your life that define who you are today and share whether you have been struggling to accept them or have accepted them.
  - e) How has your situation mentioned about been used to advance the Kingdom of God? Dr. Howard Hendricks of DTS is quoted as saying, "If you're just like someone else, we don't need you." Take a few moments and reflect on the uniqueness of who God made you to be and how that might be used to advance the gospel.
  - f) How about your spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit? Share with your group the spiritual gifts you believe the Lord as bestowed upon you? Are you using them for the edification of the church and advancement of the gospel? If so where, how so? If not, why not? Could it be that you are still trying to be someone that God has not gifted you to be, for example, gifted in mercy but constantly trying to be a bible teacher?