

The STORY - Week Twenty

February 26, 2017 God is Trustworthy

ESTHER 4:8B-17

Esther's hesitation and fear make her faith and courage even more remarkable, and the more real to us. She illustrates the way courage and faith are not incompatible with fear and hesitation; indeed, they come into their own in the context of fear and hesitation. If there is none of these, who needs faith or courage - John Goldingay (2016)?

God is never mentioned in the book of Esther. If Esther is read historically and literally God can be left out altogether. It is truly a book of coincidences. That is why we need Esther. Too often we think that just because there is no obvious working of God in the world that God is not working. Esther's discreet witness says otherwise. And we need these reminders. We need reminders that God working in our world is not always obvious—even to those in the church. We also need reminders that God uses harem girls to accomplish His purposes. Sometimes God uses the small things, the little things, the things that could be easily overlooked to accomplish His purposes - Shawna Atteberry (2013).

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. 1 Corinthians 1:25-28

Next week: *Ezra and Nehemiah - Rebuilding the Walls*

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THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

God is working, even through "coincidences".

We may throw the dice, but the LORD ...

...determines how they fall. Proverbs 16:33

Esther did not seek to be queen.

Vashti displeased the king and was banished.

Esther knew the king's temper and his laws.

Esther's plan started with prayer and fasting.

She and her maids fasted along with the Jews in Susa.

Mordecai said, "If you keep quiet at a time like this..."

Is God calling you to be courageous and trust Him?

Even when life and circumstances are unfair...

God is at work using you for His kingdom purpose!

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