

Sermon Discussion Questions | August 6, 2017

A Subtle God Esther

1. This week we began studying Esther, the second book in our three-book sermon series. Pastor Jim began by talking about ways in which we interact with God. As you look at your walk with God, how do you feel about the phrase, “God told me”? Are you comfortable with it? Why or why not?
2. How we read scripture often influences or is influenced by our perspective. As you reflect on the story of Esther in chapters 1-6, do you see the circumstances as coincidence or something more? How does the fact that God isn’t mentioned in the story at all make you feel? Why do you think that is?
3. Pastor Jim pointed out that as he read chapter 4, he wanted Mordecai and Esther to respond differently than they did. He wanted them to bring God more directly into the story, but that was not the case. In this story, God is at work more “behind the scenes.” Have you ever experienced that in your life or the life of someone you know? What was that like?
4. Pastor Jim pointed out that there is more than one way to talk about God being at work in our lives. That how we talk about His involvement in our life is a disputable matter. What does that mean for us as we discuss our spiritual walk with others? Refer back to our teaching on Romans 14 regarding disputable matters if it would be helpful.
5. The book of Esther and its way of talking about God more subtly is a great model for how to speak about God in interactions with non-Christians. How could this model be used in your own life?
6. The bottom line of this message is that God is always, always at work in our lives and we must spend time looking for Him. To close, spend some time reading the following Scripture and praying for God to reveal Himself to us. That he would strengthen us to never tire of searching for Him and calling out to Him for direction and guidance.
 - 1 Kings 19:12
 - 2 Timothy 3:16
 - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - John 10:27
 - Romans 8:26-28