

Journey to the Cross



2015 - 2016



MEMORIAL DRIVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=QqOD0A7Jmco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqOD0A7Jmco)

LESSON 17

His Time, Your Triumph (Esther)

Special Lecture
Purím





Memory Verse

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared.

This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:10

- **What is Purim**
- **How Purim is celebrated**
- **The Story of Esther**
- **Who is Mordecai**
- **Who is Haman**





What is Purím?

***“But as for you, you meant evil against me,
but God meant it for good...
To the saving of many lives.”
Genesis 50:20***



“Purim”

Fast of Esther Feast of Lots

*“...yet who knows
whether you have come to the kingdom
for such a time as this”? Esther 4:14*

Joshua,
10 months old dressed as Mordecai



Joshua,
maybe 4
years old



Very beautiful
Queen
Esther



4 years old?



7 1/2 ?

Too cool
for a
costume

- **Insubordination by the Queen (Esther 1)**
- **Inauguration of a New Queen (Esther 2:1-18)**
- **Intrigue in the King's Court (Esther 2:19-23)**
- **Intentions for Evil (Esther 3)**
- **Intercession by Esther (Esther 4 & 5)**
- **Insomnia for the King (Esther 6)**
- **Incrimination of the Perpetrator (Esther 7)**
- **Initiation of a New Decree (Esther 8:1-9:16)**
- **Institution of Purim (Esther 9:17-32)**



The heroes of the story are :

- *Esther*, (Hadassah) a beautiful young Jewish girl.
- *Mordecai*, her cousin, who raised her as his own daughter.





The villain of the story is Haman, an arrogant, egotistical Amalekite, who was advisor to the king.

The Story



Mordecai vs Haman

Mercy vs Disobedience

Who is Mordecai?

Esther 2:5

**Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew;
whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair,
the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.**

II Samuel 16:5-12

Shimei was a descendent of Saul. He was the one cursing David and throwing rocks at him when David was fleeing Jerusalem. David's men wanted to kill him but David said no. When Absalom was defeated and David returned to Jerusalem, Shimei was the first one to greet him and was pleading and repenting for his life. Again, David's men wanted to kill him but David showed mercy and said no again.

Mordecai is descended from
a man (Shimei) who David
showed mercy to.

David's mercy, 500 years
later, produced a hero
for Israel in Shushan.

Who was Haman?

Esther 3:10

**The king took his signet ring from his hand
and gave it to Haman the son of
Hammedatha the Agagite,
the enemy of the Jews.**

**An Agagite is from the lineage of King Agag,
the king of the Amalekites.**

Samuel said to Saul...

“This is what the Lord Almighty says:

I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt.

Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them: put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep ,camels and donkeys”...

Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. He took Agag, king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.

But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best sheep and cattle, the fat cows and lambs—everything that was good.

These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

When Samuel reached him,
Saul said, “The LORD bless you! **I have** carried out the
LORD’s instructions.”

But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep
in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle I hear?”

Saul answered, “ **The soldiers** brought them from the
Amalekites; **they spared** the best of the sheep and
cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, **but we** totally
destroyed the rest.”....

But Samuel replied: “ Does the LORD delight in burnt
offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the
voice of the LORD?

**To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than fat rams.
For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the
LORD,
he has rejected you as king.”**

**...And Samuel *hewed* Agag in pieces before
the Lord in Gilgal.**

1 Samuel 15:1-23 and verse 33

**Saul's disobedience allowed
Haman to be born 500 years later,
who was still bent on destroying
the Jews.**





Where is Messiah
in Purim?



It is about deliverance –

- God delivered Esther and her people.**
- God gave us the greatest deliverer – Messiah Yeshua -Jesus Christ**
- And you shall call his name Immanuel – God is with us.**
- He will deliver his people from their sins.
He will deliver ALL people who put their trust in him.**

It is about obedience-

- Abraham and his decision to trust God and obey his commands, produced (and still is producing) multitudes more numerous than the sand.**
- Rahab and Ruth, both Gentiles, sided with God and 400 years later, came King David.**
- Yeshua's obedience to the cross is still bringing eternal life to us 2000 years later.**

So in conclusion:

- The Book of Esther does not mention God. But he is woven in the background.
- Our actions impact not just the immediate moment or the here and now; but our actions can have everlasting consequences.

*David's mercy on Shimei produced a hero for Israel,
Mordecai 500 years later.*

*Saul's disobedience produced a destroyer of Israel,
Haman, 500 years later.*

- It's ok to ask people to pray with you and for you.
- God is the God of redemption. We have been redeemed and bought with a price by Jesus Christ.



Applying the Lesson to Your Life

***“...yet who knows
whether you have come to the kingdom
for such a time as this”? Esther 4:14***

***Take some time and look around you...
home, work, church..... Is there a situation that God has
put you in or made known to you,
that only you (with God's help) can change by
speaking up about it?***

***Is there someone you have to have a “hard”
conversation with but aren't sure if you should?***