

The Curse Reversed: God's Surprising Work in the Book of Esther
March 20th, 2022
Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

God's Rule and Our Risks (Esther 8:1-17)

1. When is Risk Right? (vv. 1-8)

2. Why is Risk Right? (vv. 9-17)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. Compare Esther's initial request to the king (in 5:1-4f) with her request here (8:1-6). How are they similar? How are they different? Up to this point, what *hasn't* Esther been able to accomplish? What are we to make of the King's response to her request (vv. 7-8)? How does it add to the tension of the scene?
3. Compare and contrast Mordecai's edict in 8:10-12 with Haman's in 3:12-13. Why would Mordecai write an edict almost identical to Haman's (especially given how extreme the initial edict is)? Who is Mordecai representing (see v. 10)? Who is the edict primarily addressed to (see v. 9)? How is Mordecai trying to reshape public perception through his edict? How does this help to explain his action in v. 15 (see v. 17; 9:2-4)?
4. How many days pass between the issuing of Haman's edict (3:12), and the issuing of Mordecai's edict (8:9)? Why is this number significant (see Jeremiah 29:10; Daniel 9:2)? How does this point to God's "*behind the scenes*" work in Esther?
5. In chapter 8, we see God reverse Israel's fortunes. What specific reversals do we see in this chapter (e.g. compare 8:1 with 3:1; 8:2 with 3:2; 8:16 with 4:3; 8:17 with 2:10, 20; 8:17 with 3:15)? How do these point to God's work in the book of Esther?

Application:

6. In this passage, Esther takes yet another risk by appealing again to the king (8:1-6). Jeff gave some ways for us to determine when risk is right. What was helpful or clarifying to you about this? What risk do you sense God calling you to take for the sake of his kingdom?
7. Why is risk right? How does God's sovereignty actually encourage us to take risks? How does this motivate you to take risks for the sake of his kingdom?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this message?