

Esther

God & Government

With regard to voting, there is a need to wrestle with key biblical issues:

- a) Protecting the unborn
- b) The definition of marriage
- c) Effectively helping the poor
- d) Safeguarding the environment

Our vote is not the implement for change. The nation doesn't rest upon [my] vote, but my faith in God. He is working his will in the earth; he is not depending on good men to act. He must act for good to be accomplished. We are to believe God in such a way that we are we can be light in the darkness; salt in the world.

Esther 2:17 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favor and kindness with him more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- Esther is interesting because it details God's moving without seeing God move or hearing his name; no prayer, no label of righteousness, no religious reference.
- God uses certain books to relate certain truths to us. Ecclesiastes is a book from a man who gave himself to wine & women to see if God's gift of wisdom would remain. The book of Ecclesiastes reflects the thinking of some one who had wandered far from God and who had lost their integrity.
- Esther is written to show that, even though we don't see God moving, He is still moving.

I. Adopted; Esther 2:5-7

- a. King threw a party for 6-months
 - i. Decided to show his wife, Vashti, as a trophy – in doing so commanded his wife to come to be displayed before all his leader
 - ii. Vashti told him she would not come
- b. A new wife was selected by the choosing of Esther – not just for her self, but to save her people
 - i. God was working in her situation for reasons greater than her own benefit
 - ii. Important to note: God was doing something for a reason in all our lives, doing what He has us doing for a particular reason

- c. Esther was adopted & raised by her cousin Mordecai
 - i. His position was a leader “at the gate” – where adjudication was done; he had a place of status
 - ii. Mordecai’s place made it possible for Esther to be selected because she had some status, some standing.
 - iii. Esther, like us, was POSITIONED BY ADOPTION to be used by God to do a significant work.

II. Anointed; Esther 2:8-9

- a. In a beauty contest something has to make a woman stand out. When Esther was put in the harem, she won the favor of Haggai and he saw something in her that was different.
- b. What distinguishes us that on our insides that can impact/effect others. What is it about us that makes us different? Its more than capability; its “excellence of spirit” that distinguishes each of us.
- c. Haggai provided the best to Esther to help her because he favored her.
- d. Esther gave a gift to the king of Haggai’s choosing

III. Appointed; Est 2:9-17d

- a. Sometimes you have to go thru difficulty to attain the victory
 - i. There are times when we have to go thru things that don’t seem right to get victory
 - ii. Its not about our comfort but about attaining victory for others.
 - iii. Jesus was born in a stable – a stinking place & laid in a feeding trough to accomplish his will.
 - iv. What are we willing to go thru to see others saved and see this nation saved?