

HIDDEN GOD

A SERIES IN ESTHER

SERMON TEXT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

June 21, 2020

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Expanding Your Bubble** || As we have been allowed to expand our "bubble" of people, you may want to consider starting to gather together physically as a Community Group. Make sure to physically distance and provide a way to let people who are not comfortable meeting together still be part of the group. Please be sensitive to your individual group members comfort level with this. If Zoom meetings are still needed, keep going! The important thing is to keep connecting people.
- **Northview Reading Plan** for our Esther sermon series || Dive into the sermon text during the week to prepare your heart and mind for the weekend sermon at northview.org/esther
- **Northview Cares** "Hey, Neighbour" Food Drive || Pick up brown paper bags from the Downes Road Campus between 10:00am and 12:00pm on Saturday, June 27. Give these bags to your friends, family, and neighbours and challenge them to fill it up for those in need! Collect the bags the following weekend, and drop them off at the Downes Road Campus on Saturday, July 4 between 10:00am and 12:00pm. Let's help bring hope to every home in Abbotsford. northview.org/northview-cares
**The Mission Campus will be participating in a Mission-focused food drive soon! Stay tuned for more details!*

KEEP MEETING TOGETHER - BUT ONLINE!

In the days ahead, we want to encourage you to 'not neglect meeting together' (Hebrews 10:25) even if we cannot physically gather. Our Community Department has shared some great resources which give instructions on how to connect people online. You can access this information at the link below:

How to Host a Community Group Online

It provides step-by-step directions for setting up groups via Google Hangouts and Facebook Messenger, as well as guidelines for Online Etiquette.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Content:** Pray for the Lord to use His Word to steady us through the continued challenges of this season. But also ask that He would unsteady us where we need to be shaken up from our sluggishness, particularly in our walk with Christ.
- **Connect:** Pray that God would help us to take advantage of the new opportunities we have to connect with one another. Pray that we would be bold to care for one another and give up our own comforts to do it.
- **Care:** Pray for the seniors of our church and those who are particularly vulnerable to the Coronavirus. Even as things open up they continue to have to be careful. Pray for the Lord to protect them and to help them connect well with others.
- **Commission:** Pray for our cities! Ask God to work throughout Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, the Tri-Cities, etc. Pray that this can be a season of spiritual curiosity among our neighbours.

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OBSERVATION

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book.

1. Read Esther 6:1-14.
2. What stands out from this text? What seems important to notice?
 - Xerxes had the record read to him of Mordecai exposing the plot to assassinate the king and wants to honour him
 - Haman enters the king's court hoping to have Mordecai impaled but unwittingly undermines his plan
 - Haman assumes that the king must want to honour him and suggests honouring the person by placing the king's robe on his shoulders and riding around the city on one of the king's horses
 - Haman is sent out to honour Mordecai
 - Once Mordecai has been honoured, Haman runs home grieved and his wife and advisors warn him of his impending ruin.

INTERPRETATION

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative.

1. Haman desired not only to be honoured but to be rewarded with a near kingly status, shown by the way he asked Xerxes to honour Mordecai.
 - a) Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5. What does Jonathan, son of King Saul, give to David?
Jonathan gives David his robe to wear as a symbol of their covenant after which David was always successful.
 - b) Read 1 Kings 1:32-35. How does David show that Solomon is the new king of Israel?
Solomon rides on David's own mule, is anointed by the prophets, and is hailed as king.
 - c) How do these scenes compare with what Haman is suggesting?
Haman suggests the honouree ought to wear the King's robe and ride the King's horse, both symbols of high status / royalty.

2. Esther 6 begins the start of a great reversal in the story. Mordecai, who was sentenced to death along with the rest of the Jews, is now honoured. With this in mind, think about the rest of the biblical narrative:
 - a) Skim Genesis 3. What pronouncements have been made over Adam & Eve?
They are cursed, their bodies are cursed, the ground is cursed, and they are banished from the presence of God.
 - b) This pronouncement remains upon all people. Read Romans 6:23.
 - i) What is the result of sin?
The wages of sin is death!
 - ii) What is the gift of God?
The gift of God is eternal life in Christ.
 - c) How does the biblical story relate to the story of Esther?

APPLICATION

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. The great reversal in which Haman is brought low and Mordecai is raised up is all of our stories through Christ.
 - a) What was your life like before you came to faith?
 - b) When did you first come to faith in Christ?
 - c) How has coming to believe in Jesus changed your life?
 - d) Do you ever worry that your sin might stop you from receiving the gift of eternal life from Christ?
 - e) Read Romans 8:35-39. How do these verses give you hope?
 - f) How can we share this hope with those who do not yet know Christ?