

Good Grief

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Esther.

B. The Feast of Purim is unquestionable evidence of Esther's historicity.

II. The story of Esther is a reflection of you.

A. You are the evil king.

B. Your heart has received a queen representing Jesus Christ.

C. Haman received is a picture of the Christian who sincerely sins—this is when we openly launch on a course that threatens our spiritual life without knowledge.

1. When this happens, we do not know what is wrong.
2. Most of us suffer from this kind of problem rather than deliberate sin.
3. Our ignorance of evil defeats us.

III. How God delivers us.

A. God gives us divine grief. (Ephesians 4:30)

1. Malice, anger and wrath grieve the Spirit.
2. Those attitudes opposite of the fruit of the Spirit upset Him.
3. The consequences of the king's decision were unchangeable—there would be some unavoidable suffering despite salvation.
4. The Lord can still save us, but the marks of sin may remain.
5. The wages of sin is death, so the Spirit grieves.

B. Spiritual distress.

1. There will be a revelation that something is wrong.
 - a. We need to distinguish between the condemning voice of the devil and the convicting voice of the Spirit.
 - b. The voice of the Spirit gives you an inescapable sense that something is wrong.

2. It will lead to a clear revelation.

3. God prepares the mood for us, and we are very reluctant to accept things that would be unpleasant.

C. The coming of Esther is a picture of conversion/regeneration.

1. The purpose of it is not just heaven.

2. We are saved to fulfill what God has for us today—victory over every manifestation of the flesh in the life now.

3. This is the place where daily deliverance begins. (Romans 6)

4. Christ's death for you is unchangeable fact.

5. There is always a way out for believers who struggle in Christ because of Christ's work received.

6. The power that God works in our lives will always be a resurrected life.

Application questions:

1. How are the sins we do not know about a threat to the Christian life?

2. How can spiritual distress be a positive thing?

3. When have you experienced the grieving of the Spirit? What was your response, and was it proper in light of the message?
