

THE DESPAIR OF DEATH

Sermon Notes: Esther 8:1-17

Week 06—2010

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1) Which best describes your relationship with your father. Explain a little.

- Approachable
- Golden-scepter jitters

2) Describe the circumstances of the happiest day of your life.

3) Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

1) Paul explained how God will never abdicate His responsibilities to care for us. How do the following verses affirm God's involvement in your life?

1 Peter 5:7 - *Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

Hebrews 12:10-11

He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Isaiah 46:9-10

"for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,"¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. God is not indifferent. God is not selfish.

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Can you think of any examples in your life of when you trusted God with not giving up on you? What was the outcome?

2) One day that changed the course of history into eternity is Good Friday: the day that Jesus was crucified for sin. What do the following verses tell us about what happened on that day?

Colossians 2:11-15

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Is there one of the truths in these verses that you tend to forget? If so, what could you do to help you remember it?

TAKING IT HOME

- 1) Is there a particular authority that you are struggling with this week? How can we pray with you?

- 2) You might have come to Growth Group and your world seems upside down. Remember what God can do in a day. Ask the group to pray with you that your circumstances might be turned around.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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