

Showdown In The Hometown

Esther: Chapter Three

A. An Awkward Promotion

1. The events of Chapter 3 take place in 473-472 B.C., which was _____ years after Esther became queen and _____ years after the big party.
2. The king promotes Haman to _____ in charge. (Est 3:1)
 - What are we told about Haman?
3. The king had commanded the servants within the king's gate to honor Haman, but Mordecai _____ because he was a Jew. (Est 3:2-4)
 - What is the "king's gate?"
 - How were they to honor Haman?
 - Was showing honor to those in charge prohibited by the Jews?
 - What is the Christian responsibility in regards to respecting our government?

B. An Evil Plan

1. Mordecai's disobedience infuriated Haman, but instead of punishing Mordecai alone, he had much bigger plans as he determined to _____ all of Mordecai's people, the Jews. (Est. 3:5-6)
 - What does this show about Haman?
 - What is antisemitism?
 - Is this type of behavior isolated to Hitler and the Jews?

2. Haman determined when to kill the Jews using _____. (Est. 3:7)

- How did they determine the time?
- Who was ultimately in control of the timing?
- Are we to cast lots for deciding things today?

3. We see that the king _____ with Haman's evil decree. (Est. 3:8-15)

- What does this decree mean for the remnant of Israel?
- What does the Bible say about going along with others?

C. An Unsettling Situation

1. While the decree to kill innocent people went out, it brought _____ amongst the people and even more chilling is the lack of concern for all the death that will ensue. (Est. 3:15)

- What do we need to remember about bad decisions concerning a nation?

D. Remember

1. Though we live in an evil world...

- ...we need to be _____. (Eph. 5:15-16)
- ...we need to _____. (Eph. 6:10-18)
- ...we are not to be _____. (2 Tim. 1:7)
- ...we are to _____. (2 Tim. 3:14-14)
- ...we need to be _____. (1 Pet. 3:15)