

GOD WORKS IN PAINFUL CIRCUMSTANCES

Esther 2-3

God can turn your pain and distress into channels of blessing for you and others

LET'S GET STARTED

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!" When it comes to bringing good outcomes from our painful circumstances, God is a terrific lemonade Maker! In this message, we will see that God works in circumstances that cause us pain and stress to accomplish great things. God used unjust events in Esther's life to elevate her to a position of influence that enabled her to save the lives of all her people.

God can also use your painful circumstances to bring about good outcomes for His own purposes and glory!

LET'S HEAR THE WORD

Summary of Esther Chapters 2-3:

- Xerxes initiates a search for a new queen (2:1-4).
- Many young women, including Esther, are forced to become candidates for Xerxes' affections (2:5-14).
- Esther is chosen as the new queen of the Persian kingdom (2:15-23).

Esther 2:17—Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

- Haman orchestrates his plot to destroy the Jews (3:1-15).

Quotable

Perhaps the world you live in is falling apart around you Whatever mountains are crumbling around you, take the high road and stop striving. . . . Listen to the whisper of God behind the roar of your circumstances.

—Charles Swindoll

Some suffering is not given to correct past wrongs but to prevent future ones.

—Tim Keller

If you would like to know more

Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity, by Charles Swindoll (Thomas Nelson, 1997)

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TAKEAWAYS FROM ESTHER CHAPTERS 2-3

- Trust God to work, even when you don't _____ what He is up to.

Isaiah 28:21—The LORD will rise up as he did at Mount Perazim, he will rouse himself as in the Valley of Gibeon—to do his work, his strange work, and perform his task, his alien task.

Romans 8:28—And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

For those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ, it just makes good sense not to depend too heavily on our ability to make the pieces fit—especially when we're trying to figure out the Almighty!

—James Dobson

One of the marks of spiritual maturity is the quiet confidence that God is in control—without the need to understand why He does what He does. —Charles Swindoll

- Never underestimate the value of godly _____.

Romans 5:3-4—³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

- _____ what's _____, regardless, because this pleases God.

Deuteronomy 6:18—“Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you . . .”

LET'S LIVE IT

Trust God to bring good outcomes from your painful circumstances.

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

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Pastor David: Office extension 11, email: dcoleman@crowfieldbaptist.org

Pastor Gary: Office extension 14, email: gfabian@crowfieldbaptist.org

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You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.com/salvation/>