

1. Living in less than ideal circumstances

- Esther starts 482BC – Xerxes in the emperor of Persian Empire
- Esther – orphan, Jewess, rounded up placed in harem
- One shot at pleasing the king and maybe becoming his wife
- God’s people sometimes find themselves in less than ideal circumstances
- There are circumstances we can change, but some we can't
- God calls us to live for him in hard circumstances we can't change

2. The unseen God works in these circumstances for our good

- God is not mentioned in the book of Esther!
- About 20 ‘coincidences’ - Did all these events just happen?
- When God seems most absent, he is utterly in control
- God cannot be thwarted by a Haman’s plans
- Esther - female, orphan and racial minority
- God uses the weak and powerless to carry out his purposes
- The church - weak, powerless - is God’s agent for change in this world

3. Living for God whatever the circumstances

a. Called to live for God and not ourselves

- Esther had to be challenged by Mordecai to live for God rather than herself – 4:12
- Esther had the palace and didn't want to lose it or her life
- What are you not prepared to let go of in order to follow God?
- If we live for ourselves we lose, if we live for God we gain
- To live for God we need to be convinced that he is worth living for
- Until you see the one to whom Esther points you'll not see God as worth living for, and you'll always lose ultimately
- Jesus didn't simply say, “If I perish I perish”, but “When I perish I perish” in order to rescue

b. Called to trust the unseen God who rules

- Although you can't see him, you can trust him
- We can't sit back, when we follow we see God work
- When we trust and follow, God will delight us with his work.

c. Called to bring good to the whole of society

- Esther called to live out her faith for the good of society
- The Christian is not to withdraw from the world, but to be involved to see transformation
- God would have us live in such a way to bring good to others



Notices

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| Sun 1st | Evening service in Milford - The Story of Gomer (Hosea 1-3) | 8pm |
| Tue | Preparation for communion - Mark & Judith's
Jesus Cry from the Cross - Luke 23:34 | 8pm |
| Fri 6 th | Dinner & Bowling - meet at Arena 7 at 7pm | |
| Sat 7 th | Young People's Spring Conference
Cloughmills - 6.30pm for tea, 7pm for meeting (over 8.45pm)
Christians in a world that rejects Christ - Rev Peter Jemphrey | |
| Sun 8 th | Lord's Supper at morning service - If you haven't joined with us to take part in the Lord's Supper and would like to take part please speak to Mark before next week.. | |
| Thu 12 th | Banner of Truth NI Conference for young people
The Book that Changed the World - Can we Trust the Bible?
The Crescent Church, University Road, Belfast.
Speakers Include: Ted Donnelly & Mark Johnston | |
| Mon 16 th | Letterkenny prayer evening
Come and go at whatever time suits
The house beside the Open Door Bookshop | 7-11pm |
| Sat 21 st | Go-relief team meeting - Cloughmills RP Church @ 3.00pm | |

Sabbath 8th - Mary & Martha (Luke 10:39-42, John 11:1-12:7)

Opening Psalm: 95:5-9

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