

Esther

As We Begin... Esther (Chapter 1:9-22) – Class Notes for 03/21/2023

Video of Today's Study - <https://vimeo.com/pilgrimlutheran>

The Situation

- Xerxes displays an enormously poor view of marriage. He mistreats his wife as a showpiece and then asks his buddies about how she should be treated.
- A week into the two “Major Ragors”
 - Headline!
- V. 10 “the heart of the king was merry with wine”
 - Headline!
- Xerxes: “Let’s turn my wife, the queen, into an ‘exotic dancer.’”
- Vashti: “Yeah, no.”
- Xerxes: searches for advice/council from the חֲכָמִים (wise men, think legal counsel)

As We Study...The Cost of Advice

Xerxes’ Advisors offer a Lesson on Advice (Esther 1:13-22) – Xerxes relies on his royal advisors to help him with his problematic wife, Queen Vashti. She just won’t follow orders! To help him determine how to handle this problem, he consults his advisors. What does their advice teach us about the giving and receiving of advice?

- Describe the thinking process of the “wise men who understood the times” in Esther. (v. 13)? –
- Describe what these biblical examples teach about the giving and receiving of advice –
 - Rehoboam (I Kings 12:1-19) –
 - Proverbs (Prov. 12:5 & Prov. 12:15) –
 - Haman’s Advisors (Esther 5:9-15) –
 - Egypt’s Bad Advisors (Isaiah 19:11-15) -
 - Gamaliel’s Advice (Acts 5:33-42) –
- Malme on Advice –
 - Advice is like mushrooms; the wrong kind can be fatal.
 - It’s a pleasure to give advice, humbling to need it and normal to ignore it.
 - Advice is like a laxative, easy to take but hard to predict the outcome.
- Biblical Wisdom about Advice –
 - Avoid ungodly counsel or advice (Psalm 1:1; 12:5) –
 - Godly advice adds wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-5; 11:14; 15:22)
 - The Lord is the best counselor (Psalm 16:7-11; 33:4-11; 119:23-24) –
 - The Holy Spirit is the greatest counselor (John 14:15-16, 26; 16:7, 12-15) -