



Esther

Session 4: From Coronation to Doomsday

Before watching today's DVD session and discussing the questions below, re-read *The Book of Esther*, chapter 2.2 through 4.17.

1. Depending on how the young women were taken into the harem to potentially be the next queen, what do you think are the range of feelings they might have experienced?
2. What part does ambiguity play in how the story of the "night with the king" is told?
3. Who are Mordecai and Esther?
4. Did Esther volunteer for the "beauty pageant" or was she kidnapped? Why does it matter?
5. How is the flashback to Mordecai's discovery of the assassination plot important to the story?

6. What is Haman's story?

7. How does the celebration of Purim get its name?

8. How do the various characters react to the unveiling of Haman's scheme?

9. Explain how *Esther* 4.14 might be where we "find" God in this story.

10. Describe a time in history (or in your own life) when the participation of the Divine was more implicit than explicit.

11. What are the implications of this session's material for your personal life? Your spiritual journey? For your local faith community?

