

Dinners With a Purpose: Esther Edition (Fall 2011)

For this edition of Dinners With a Purpose, we are encouraging you to take time to reflect more deeply on the teaching that comes through the Esther story.

We encourage you to read the biblical story of Esther -- its a great story. And then we encourage you to reflect on the reading from Dan Allender's book, *To Be Told*, which we have supplied for you. The intersection of these two pieces will provide you with points of reflection for your own life.

The questions below may be useful for drawing out whatever connections you might find between the story of Esther, the attached reading, and your personal story.

As you reflect on what God did through Esther, realize this: you are a story being told.

Enjoy your dinner.

DWAP Reading:

chapter one of Dan B. Allender, *To Be Told: Know Your Story, Shape Your Future* (Colorado Springs, CO.: Waterbrook Press, 2005) pp.9-22

Reflection Questions

1. in the Esther story, God is not named but is everywhere present: in what ways have you been aware of God in your personal story, even in times when his presence is not obviously discernible?
2. there are four principle characters in the Esther story: Esther, Mordecai, Haman, and the king: what do you know of each of them? how would you describe some of the principle characters in your own personal story? what have they meant to you?
3. in the Esther story, the crisis is real and evident; and as Allender reminds us, there is tragedy and tension in every story: what are your tragedies and tensions and how have you come to understand them? live with them? overcome them?
4. the Esther story ends well: what is the good ending you hope for?