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**Date:** May 26, 2024    **Message:** How the Tables Have Turned

**Series:** Esther: Sovereignty in Silence    **Scripture:** Esther 9-10

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Retribution & Restraint:

Relief & Rest:

Remembrance & Rejoicing:

1. How do Esther 9 and 10 further illustrate the big theme of reversal that had been building up through the previous chapters?
2. How should we approach and seek to better understand a text like Esther and the violent scene in chapter 9, and reconcile that with God's compassionate nature and Jesus' call to love our enemies and to pray for them?
3. Why didn't the rest from their enemies that was eventually given to Esther and Mordecai (as well as to other biblical leaders like Moses or Joshua or David or Solomon) ever last long-term? How do these figures foreshadow the eventual coming of Jesus and his provision of perfect and final rest from our enemies?
4. What does the institution of the festival of Purim teach us about the importance of remembering and celebrating God's deliverance? How often do you intentionally pause to remember and thank God for what He has provided and done in your own life? How can you make this a more regular practice?
5. The book of Esther makes clear throughout the story that Esther and Mordecai found their growing influence as a total surprise. Meaning, they didn't plan for it at all, and they arrived at their powerful positions through virtually no effort of their own. Why is this such an important theme of the book?
6. In what ways has our journey through the book of Esther and seeing how God uses imperfect people to accomplish his perfect plans encouraged you? How has it been helpful?
7. What is something you have learned through your study of Esther? How will it impact how you live?