

## When Things Go from Bad to Worse Esther 3:7-15

When things go from bad to worse, how we respond reveals where our \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Three Ways People Respond to Suffering

1. People \_\_\_\_\_ God for their suffering.

- Job 34:12, "God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice."
- Through Esther's story we learn that God always has \_\_\_\_\_ for why things go from bad to worse.

2. People \_\_\_\_\_ God from their suffering.

- Job 1:21, "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."
- Lamentations 3:32-33, "Though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men."

**The BIG Idea** ... Even when things go from bad to worse, God's not only got this, He's \_\_\_\_\_ this—so we can hang our \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.

3. People \_\_\_\_\_ in the God of their suffering.

- Psalm 25:3, "None who hope in you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous."

### When Things Go from Bad to Worse ...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is not orchestrating life's events, \_\_\_\_\_ is.

- Ephesians 1:11, "God works all things according to the counsel of His will."
- Proverbs 16:33, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."

2. People can be \_\_\_\_\_, but God \_\_\_\_\_ be.

- Galatians 6:7, "God is not mocked ..."

3. Even the \_\_\_\_\_ evil plans will eventually serve \_\_\_\_\_ good purposes.

- Psalm 2:2, 4, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed ... but he who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision."
- God's rescue plan is already \_\_\_\_\_.
- Haman's death decree is finalized on the 13th day of the 1st month—the eve of \_\_\_\_\_ eve.

### Application

When things go from bad to worse, the way we hang onto hope is to \_\_\_\_\_ .

- 1 Corinthians 5:7, "Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."
- Lamentations 3:21-23, "This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."