

DAY 1 – ESTHER 7:1-10

1. What did you find new or interesting from the lecture?
2.
 - a. What did Esther finally reveal about herself to the king?
 - b. How did Esther convince the king of Haman's wickedness?
3.
 - a. List the occasions of the king's anger throughout the book of Esther thus far.
 - b. Why would anger shorten one's life as it says in Sirach 30:24?
 - c. How could anger leave room for the devil as it says in Ephesians 4:26-27?
4.
 - a. What did Haman do while the king was in the garden?
 - b. In what ways has Haman shown us an example of Matthew 23:12?
5. To what conclusion did the king jump when he returned from the garden?
6. How was justice ultimately served? (See Ps 7:15-17)
7. The king's anger was abated by Haman's hanging, but had he granted Esther's request?

DAYS 2 & 3 – ESTHER 8:1-12

8.
 - a. What enabled Mordecai to be admitted to the king's presence?
 - b. How does a relationship with Jesus give one access to the Father? (See CCC 2664, 2780)
 - c. How can a relationship with Mary, Queen of Heaven, deepen a person's relationship with Jesus and what titles does the Church give her to denote this role? (See CCC 969, 2677)
9. In what ways is Esther a type of the Blessed Virgin Mary?
10.
 - a. What authority did the signet ring signify for Mordecai?
 - b. Compare this to the keys which Jesus gave to Peter. (See Mt 16:18-19)
11.
 - a. How did Esther humble herself before the king in order to plead for her people once more?
 - b. The king stretched forth the golden scepter to Esther. What did this signify (See Est 5:2) and how does Jesus hold out the scepter to us?
12. How did Mordecai and Esther deal with the irrevocability of the edict to destroy the Jews?
13.
 - a. How much time did the Jews have between Mordecai's letter and the attack?

- b. What sense of urgency was shown by the king for the Jews' defense? (See Est 8:14)
- c. Why is the defense of Jesus and His Church in need of a sense of urgency today?

DAY 4 – ESTHER (NAB E:1-24; 8:13-17) (RSV 16:1-24; 8:13-17)

14. a. According to Esther (NAB E:2) (RSV 16:2), what causes ambition/pride to grow?
- b. Have you witnessed this? Explain.
15. What do the proud and the arrogant think they will escape?
16. a. From Esther (NAB E:5) (RSV 16:5), why must one be guarded when friends give advice?
- b. When have friends tried to persuade you to be an accomplice to something immoral? **(Personal)**
17. Esther (NAB E:9) (RSV 16:9) speaks of taking advantage of changing conditions. How has the Catholic Church dealt with changing conditions in the world?
18. a. Through the vehicle of the letter, how did Mordecai “evangelize”?
- b. What vehicles are being used today to evangelize?
19. What did the “king’s” letter exhort the people to do?
20. a. What words were used to describe the reaction of the Jews when the letter arrived?
- b. Why would they be so jubilant?
 - c. Why should Catholics be described using these words? Do these words describe you?

DAY 5 – ESTHER (NAB 9:1 – 10:3; F:1-10) (RSV 9:1 – 10:13)

21. What situation was reversed for the Jews?
22. The Jews were careful to defend themselves only, and take no plunder. How was this different than what Haman intended in the first edict?
23. a. Why do you think the Jews were “ordered” to commemorate Purim every year?
- b. How is this similar to the Catholic holy days of obligation? (See CCC 2177, 2181)
 - c. What is the foremost holy day of obligation? (See CCC 2192)
24. Mordecai finally understood his dream. Why is patience critical in discerning the will of God?
25. a. In Mordecai’s dream, Esther was the tiny stream that became a great river. Describe a time when your faith has become “a great river”. **(Personal)**
- b. What do you do to keep your faith from drying up?