

DAYS 1 & 2 – ESTHER 4:1-16 (NAVARRE 4:1-17)

1. What did you find new or interesting from the lecture?
2. How did Mordecai and the other Jews react to the death sentence?
3.
 - a. Why do you think Esther sent garments to Mordecai?
 - b. How did Mordecai react to the gift?
4. What government information did Mordecai possess?
5.
 - a. Esther's unique position afforded her the ability to intercede for her people. How can officials/politicians today intercede for Christians?
 - b. What do these politicians need from us?
 - c. Against what does the Church invite politicians to measure their decisions and why? (See CCC 2244, 2257)
6.
 - a. Why didn't Esther want to get involved? What did she misunderstand about her own peril?
 - b. Could Esther have felt insulated from the problems of her own people? Explain your answer.
 - c. In what ways do you feel insulated from the problems suffered by other Christians? **(Personal)**
7.
 - a. What did Mordecai encourage Esther to consider about God's plan for her life?
 - b. How have the circumstances of your life allowed you to be a part of God's plan for the salvation of others? **(Personal)**
8.
 - a. Esther asked all the Jews in Susa to fast for three days on her behalf. Would you consider asking your friends to fast on your behalf? Why or why not?
 - b. How are you strengthened by knowing others are covering you in prayer?
9. What words indicate Esther's abandonment to God's will?

DAY 3 – ESTHER C:1-30 (NAVARRE 13:8 – 14:19)

10. This chapter contains the prayers of Mordecai and Esther. Why do you think the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of Scripture to include people's specific prayers?
11. Mordecai assured God he was not acting out of pride. Why should we examine our motives for our pious acts?
12. Mordecai's prayer shows a heart attuned to God. How does our relationship with God affect our prayers? (See CCC 2562)
13. In union with Mordecai, Esther prayed a similar prayer. Why is it important to be unified with others in prayer? (See Mt 18:19-20)

14. a. Define mortification.
- b. What is the purpose of mortification in the spiritual life? (See CCC 2549)
15. a. What elements of Esther's prayer reflect today's society?
- b. How could you use this prayer for your country and world today?
16. a. How did Esther demonstrate a spirit of poverty in the midst of her luxury?
- b. What can you do to cultivate this same spirit?

DAY 4 – ESTHER D:1-15; 5:1-14 (NAVARRE 15:1-16; 5:1-14)

17. a. Contrast Esther's outward appearance with her inner feelings.
- b. Why are people sometimes afraid to approach Jesus, King of kings?
- c. How can Hebrews 4:14-16 help a person approach this King?
18. a. What did God do with the king's anger?
- b. When has God softened your heart towards your spouse? **(Personal)**
19. a. How did the king respond to Esther's weakness?
- b. How do you think God responds to our weakness when we fall before Him?
20. a. To what extent did Haman exalt himself to his wife and friends?
- b. Yet he wasn't satisfied. What did he think would satisfy him?
- c. Have you ever found yourself in the situation in which you had exactly what you thought you wanted, but still weren't satisfied? Explain. **(Personal)**
- d. Where is true happiness found? (See CCC 1723, 2548)

DAY 5 – ESTHER 6:1-14

21. The Septuagint says in verse 1 "But the Lord removed sleep from the king that night". Why did God awaken him?
22. a. How did Haman's pride turn to humiliation?
- b. What warning about pride in Sirach 10:6-17 do you find most poignant?
23. How does Proverbs 16:18 herald Haman's downfall?