FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (Esther 8:1-17)

1. **Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?**
   If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?

2. **I mentioned in the sermon the idea of the "underdog" and our propensity to be drawn to that in our stories.**
   What are some of your favorite underdog stories (either historically in real life, books, or movies)?
   How does chapter eight show the Lord working in the lives of those who would be "the underdogs"?

3. **How does the reality of God's sovereignty help you when considering those whom the Lord has placed in authority over you?**
   How does this chapter show that the Lord is the one who establishes (and removes) all people and the positions they hold?

4. **As the new edict is issued by King Ahasuerus, what is the response of the Jewish people all throughout Susa?**
   As you consider their response in light of that deliverance, how should we respond in light of the deliverance we have in Jesus?
   *Consider God's command through the Apostle Paul in Philippians - "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, rejoice!"

5. **Consider this chapter of Esther - where you do see parallels/foreshadowing of the Gospel?**
   How does this encourage you regarding the continuity of Scripture & God's character as revealed throughout both Testaments?

6. **Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the end of the sermon.**
   Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?
      1. **God saves His people who were condemned to die!**
         Sin results in death for all, but salvation is ours in Jesus!
      2. **God establishes people & the positions they hold!**
         Trust in Him, even when we don't like or understand it!
      3. **God's deliverance from evil rightly results in rejoicing!**
         We've been delivered through Jesus; let's rejoice always!