Questions from the Book of Esther – God's Soveriegnty

"Topics you always wanted a sermon on" series
Esther 4:12-14

Question (shortened): ***"I'm puzzled over some of the ways it portrays the character and priorities of God, particularly as He acts through Esther. Does the book portray Esther as virtuous in her willingness to go along with premarital sex as a "means to an end" to save the nation of Israel? In other Bible stories, we see God using someone's defiance to glorify Him. In modern terms, we might call what happened to Esther as sex trafficking. this seems like a pretty big thing to simply look past in order to save a nation. Of course there is also Joseph and the crucifixion of Jesus…the Bible gets messy! Is this showing how God is always present and working in the most horrific circumstances?"***

PROPOSITION: God's sovereignty is always at work – we are called to join Him in His work!

I. The message of Esther Esther 4:12-14

A. Summary of the storyline

B. Only Bible book where God is not mentioned

C. Doesn't declare God's actions, just implies influence

D. Obedient faith requires overcoming fear, sacrifice, uncertainty and action

E. God is always powerfully at work around us and nothing can stop Him

II. Some questions

A. Is God condoning, or asking the righteous to, sin?
(Isa. 48:20; Jer. 50:8; 51:6 – Jer 29:10 – Deuteronomy 28)

B. Does God 'overlook' injustice to get His ways?

C. Why isn't God's name used in the book?

D. Was the Jewish response bloodthirsty? Esther 8:11 (3:13)

III. What about YOU today? Does your faith encourage and motivate you to sacrifice?