

### **Coming out in Susa (Esther 7:1-10)**

- Every other week it seems some super star ‘comes out’ about some secret
- This can mean an open confession of any host of things from sexuality to drugs
- Queen Esther also had a deep down secret for a long time: her Jewishness
- She was taken into the harem, & followed Mordecai’s advice to hide this fact
- The 5 years she was queen, no one knew she was linked to Mordecai & the Jews
- Hiding her Jewishness so effectively, she must have broken many laws of Moses
- Esther now decided to plea for her people’s lives, though this would be very hard

#### **I. Esther’s Request**

- Time had come to reveal all. So when Ahasuerus asked, Esther answered (v1-4)
- Esther came out of the closet far enough to link her fate with the fate of her people
- Esther subtly made her point, “we have been sold, I and my people” (7:4)
- Before she identified the guilty party, she wanted the king angry enough to act

#### **II. Ahasuerus’ Response**

- Esther’s argument hit home. The king was angry ‘Who is he, where is he...’ (7:5)
- Esther focused the king’s anger on the key mover of the edict: a foe & enemy (v6)
- The king stalked out into the garden perplexed, considering he signed the edict (7)
- The king returned, Haman had solved his problem by troubling Esther (8)
- The cruelest irony of them all; Haman executed on the pole for Mordecai (9-10)

#### **III. Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility**

- Esther’s intricate plan was a necessary process of bringing Haman to justice
- Yet Esther’s plan by itself was not what turned around the fortunes of God’s people
- The key event had nothing to do with Esther, God sovereignly guided the king

#### **IV. God’s Covenant Faithfulness**

- God will certainly deliver His people, whether or not they are faithful (2 Tim 2:13)
- Gen 12 those who bless Abraham...be blessed & if they curse they will be cursed
- New covenant in Christ, God says, if God be for you who can be against you

#### **V. The Earthly Emperor and the Great King**

- Profound truth in ch.7 the difference between Ahasuerus and the Lord our God
- For our sake, God took His own Son & impaled Him on a tree, bearing our curse
- Our destiny is bound up in Christ, God loved us while we still sinners (Rom 5:8,9)