

**Esther**  
**Esther 4:14**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show the great example of standing up against evil in leadership.

Intro: 1. Esther is a great example of defending the innocent.

I. Disobedience & a new Queen

A. The Queen Vashti disobeys the king (Ch.1)

1. The queen is told to parade herself before the officials and she refuses (**1:11-12**)
2. The Queen Vashti is banished, as the king followed his advisors (**1:19-20; 21-22**)

B. Esther is made the new queen (Ch.2)

1. Esther (the cousin of Mordecai) is sent to appear before the king (**2:5-8**).
2. Esther is shown special favor (**2:9**); Esther delights the king and becomes his queen (**2:15-18**).
  - a. Esther keeps her Jewish nationality a secret (**2:20**)
3. Mordecai overhears a plot to assassinate the king. He reports the information. As a result the guards are hanged & it is recorded in the king's archives; this is important later (**2:21-22,23**).

II. A problem

A. After Esther becomes queen a plot arises (ch.3)

1. **Est 3:6-9**; a plot by Haman to kill all Jews in the empire is brought before the king in exchange for silver (375 tons of silver).
2. The king agrees even without payment; **Est 3:10-11**

B. Esther & Mordecai have a plan (ch.4-5)

1. Mordecai mourns over the evil plot of Haman & refuses comfort (**Est 4:1-4**).
2. Mordecai tells Esther of his plans and urges her to use her royal office to help deliver the Jews (*Est 4:5-14*)
3. Esther has her requests heard by the king (*Est 5:1-8*)
4. Haman is still furious about Mordecai & Haman's wife and friends advise him to build gallows and hang Mordecai in the morning (**Est 5:9-14**)

III. Haman embarrassed & Esther is the Hero.

A. Haman unknowingly honors Mordecai

1. The king discovers that Mordecai is responsible for saving his life. He then asks Haman how to honor such a man. (**6:3**)
2. Haman in his arrogance thinks the King was talking about him (Haman). (**6:6-9**)
3. Humiliated, Haman must abandon any plot against Mordecai (*6:12-14*)
4. Haman is hanged in chapter 7! (**7:7-10**)

B. Esther works to save the Jews

1. Esther begs the King to reverse the order to kill the Jews (**8:1-6**)
2. The decree is reversed (*8:7-14*)
3. The Jews defend themselves from their attackers
  - a. A two-day festival is declared (*9:17-32*)

b. Mordecai is promoted (10:1-3).

Application & Conclusion:

1. A lot of evil has been done because people have listened to wicked advice & ideas of others. The king first listened to his advisers and banished his Vashti. He then listens to Haman and the lives of the Jews are put in danger.
2. Esther stood up to the King, stood up for the people, and in doing so is a great example we can look up to today.
3. Full Invitation

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Luke 13:3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – Rev 2:10,

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9