

## Sermon Discussion

### 22 August 2021

Read Esther 7:1-10

#### Dig Deeper

When Esther says, “**I and my people**” in v. 4, she reveals that she is a Jew and that Ahasuerus has been tricked into ordering the death of the queen he loves. Haman had “bought” the king's agreement to his plan (3:9).

With this exaggerated comparison of slave, Esther, like Haman, appeals to the king's self-interest. If he reduced the Jews to slavery, he would at least have the benefit of their free labour. By killing them, he will lose a valuable asset.

In v. 8, Haman was probably kneeling, perhaps with his hands or arms on the **couch** (probably to seek mercy from Esther). But the king's perception may be distorted by his anger (taking Haman's move as an assault on Esther).

**Covering the head** of a prisoner is a custom well known in both ancient and modern times. It's not unlike placing someone in handcuffs today.

1. Esther displayed a ton of courage when she risked her life to save her people. When has God asked you to do something courageous for someone else, or for His Kingdom?
2. In what ways may God be calling you to step out boldly in faith?
3. Haman begged for forgiveness only after his wickedness had been exposed. Are you quick to admit and ask forgiveness for your sin? Or do you wait until there are consequences?
4. The king showed Haman no mercy, yet we know, as Christians, we are called to forgive as God has forgiven us. Is there someone in your life right now that you need to forgive?
5. What, if any, risks are you currently taking for the sake of the gospel? Is there anything that prevents you from risking much for Christ's sake? If so, explain.

#### Application & Prayer

- Take time to pray for those who have hurt you in the past. Pray for forgiveness and peace between the two of you.
- Confess to God the areas of your life where you need to be more like Jesus.
- Ask God to lead your heart to be more bold.