**Esther: The Sounds of Silence**

**Main: If we are faithless, He remains faithful**

**Key moments in each chapter**

**Chapter one: Ahasuerus: the mighty X-man or bless you and Vashti vanishes**

* **3rd year of the reign of Ahasuerus.**
* **Ahasuerus: Bless you! (Or “The mighty X-man”)**
	+ **Powerful, egoistic, wealthy, generous**
	+ **Showed off his kingdom for 6 months**
	+ **Gave a feast in the capital for a full week for everyone**
* **Vashti vanishes**
	+ **After a week of revelry, the King was in “high spirits”**
	+ **Told Queen Vashti to come to show how beautiful she was**
	+ **She refused to come at the king’s command**
* **It’s a man’s world: The family command**

**Chapter two: Esther is a queen and Mordecai is a good guy**

* **7th year**
* **“I’ve been waiting for a girl like you”**
* **Esther, bless her. She becomes queen.**
* **Mordecai’s a good guy and uncovers a murder plot**
* **The King’s harem: A second wave of virgins**

**Chapter three: Hey man! Haman in the house**

* **12th year**
* **Mordecai’s refusal to honor Haman**
* **Haman’s antisemitism reached to Palestine**

**Chapter four: For such a time as this?**

* **The distress of Mordecai…and the rest of the Jews**
* **Esther’s dilemma**
* **Mordecai’s response**
* **Esther’s courage**

**Chapter five: Haman the happy hangman**

* **Esther risks her life…for supper?**
* **Banquet #1**
* **Haman’s joy and his plot**

**Chapter six: Mordecai is honored**

* **“I didn’t sleep at all last night”**
* **The tables turn**

**Chapter seven: Haman is exposed**

* **Supper time: Banquet #2**
* **Haman is busted**
* **Haman is hanging around**

**Chapters 8-9:17 - Turnabout is fair play**

* **Esther gets it all**
* **Mordecai’s finger: The King liked it and put a ring on it**
* **Sovereign evangelism – 8:17**

**Chapter 9:18-32: The Feast of Purim: Chance? Pr. 16:33; Sorrow to joy**

**Chapter 10: Sometimes the good guys do win**

**Observations and Applications**

 **1. If we are faithless, He remains faithful**

 **2. God’s faithfulness is evident, even in spite of the actions of His people**

 **3. The words “God” and “prayer” never occur in Esther, yet they are the keys to understanding the book. Their silence is deliberate. Many were far from God.**

 **4. Esther left her destiny in God’s hands when she decided to do what was right. We need to, as well.**

 **5. Sometimes God seems silent in our lives, but He is never far from us – Acts 17:26-27; Heb. 13:5-6**

 **6. Haman’s pride was his downfall – Pr. 16:18; Jas. 4:6**

 **7. God controls and works through rulers - Romans 13:1-2; Pr. 21:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-2**

 **8. Jews in Jerusalem; “Is God still here?”**

 **9. If Haman’s plot had succeeded, all Jewish persons, including those in the land of Israel, would have been destroyed. No Israel, no Messiah, no cross.**

**10. God is not named in Esther. Yet, He is everywhere, He was still there. And, He still rules heaven and earth.**

**If we are faithless, He remains faithful**