

**Theme:** Our decisions or “defining moments” prove whether we will be willing or unwilling participants in God’s unfolding plans. God can use very flawed instruments to accomplish his great purposes and plans, and by His grace He can transform them, in the process, into people of faith and trust in him.

**Introduction/Background:** Life-changing choices? Esther is about to be presented with the most difficult choice of her life – and that choice/decision will affect a whole nation.

## **I. Queen Esther’s Isolation**

- A. A kingdom in mourning
- B. Esther’s distress?
  - Torn clothes?
  - What edict?
- C. Discovering the truth
- D. Go to the king?
  - Facing a “death sentence” one way or the other

## **II. Mordecai’s Transformation**

- A. Humility
- B. Repentance
  - 1. “Rending clothes” (Numbers 14:6; 2 Samuel 1:11; Ezra 9:3)
  - 2. Sackcloth and ashes
    - Echoes of the prophets Joel 2:12-14
- C. Faith!
  - 1. Where *God* is not mentioned
  - 2. A statement of trust
    - A threat or warning?
    - A higher mission

### **III. Esther's True Identity**

A. Hadassah or Esther - The girl with two names.

- Called out of hiding

B. Her defining moment!

- Identifying with the people of God

C. Call out to....

1. The call to fasting. Joel 2:15-16a

2. Esther takes charge.

### **IV. Our Identity Crises**

1. God has placed you where you are for a purpose.

2. God uses flawed instruments to accomplish His plans.

3. Our *many* defining moments.

4. A decision that changes *Everything!*