

Having Men for Dinner: Biblical Women's Deadly Banquets

Session Three: Esther & How to help

Opening Reflection: What do you remember about the story of Esther?

Notes for Discussion Video

Pattern of Biblical Women Murderers (Duran)

- A) a powerful foreign male enemy
- B) a particular situation with the husband
- C) some sort of sexual tension
- D) food or drink as hospitality is involved
- E) a cold-blooded murder by a woman

Big Things

- Hebrew Scripture is called the TaNaKh — T for Torah (Law), N for Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings)
- The Book of Esther is the scriptural basis for the Jewish holiday of Purim.
- We should know the context of scriptures before we quote them to people.

Reading 1: Esther 4:12-14

When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Reading 2: Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars
we hung our harps,
for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of
Zion!"

How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth

if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.

Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.

"Tear it down," they cried,
"tear it down to its foundations!"

Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.
Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.

