

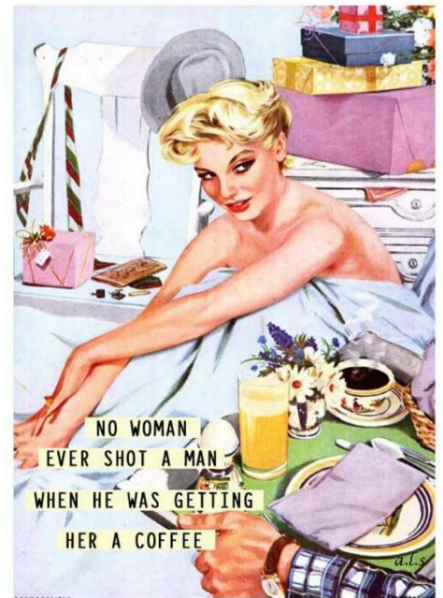
Having Men for Dinner: Biblical Women's Deadly Banquets

Session One: Judith & Some Big Things

Opening Reflection: What do you think life was like for women during the times the Bible was written? What do you know about women of the Bible?

Notes for Discussion Video

- Apocrypha: "Hidden writings." In Catholic and Anglican Bibles, called "The Deuterocanon" (the second canon). These are a collection of sacred writings, probably from the intertestamental period, that are only included in some Bibles. They were likely set aside in their own section for considerations like date of writing, variable usage in early Christian communities, or questionable content.
- Ahistoricity of Judith
Clue #1: Anachronistic. For example, Nebuchadnezzar was the King of _____.
Clue #2: Hyperbolic. The scale is _____.
Clue #3: Imaginary timeline & location. "Bethulia" means _____.
- Importance of the Story
 1. One of the first works of _____.
 2. It's a rare story about _____.
 3. It follows a particular pattern.
 - 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

- The Apocrypha/Deuterocanon
- Jewish stories sometimes have flags that they're fiction
- Stories can have major significance
- Judah, Judean, Judaism connection
- Sadducees/Pharisees
- the law/The Law
- how to pronounce Biblical names you don't know
- Jesus-Pharisee connection

Reading One: Judith 9:9b-12

Give to me, a widow, the strong hand to do what I plan.
By the deceit of my lips strike down the slave with the prince
and the prince with his servant;
crush their arrogance by the hand of a woman.
For your strength does not depend on numbers,
nor your might on the powerful.
But you are the God of the lowly,
helper of the oppressed,
upholder of the weak,
protector of the forsaken,
savior of those without hope.
Please, please, God of my father,
God of the heritage of Israel,
Lord of heaven and earth,
Creator of the waters,
King of all your creation,
hear my prayer!"

Reading Two: Exodus 21:28-29

If a bull gores a man or woman to death, the bull is to be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten. But the owner of the bull will not be held responsible. If, however, the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull is to be stoned and its owner also is to be put to death.

Reading Three: Luke 10:25-33

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.