

Evil Woman

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Jezebel, the most evil woman in recorded history and certainly an interesting character, will not suit our purpose today. She is too extreme an example
- B. Do women have the same capacity for evil and harm as men?
 - 1. "I know this: The wickedness of men is that their power breeds stupidity and blindness. Women are weaker, but their weakness is full of cunning and an equally rigid moral certainty. Since their arena is smaller, their capacity for real damage is less alarming. Though being dearer they are the more treacherous." (Elphaba, On Wickedness)
 - 2. It may be a different form, means & methodology, but it is the same evil
- C. All too often we limit our consideration of evil to men in the Bible, with the occasional nod toward Jezebel
 - 1. We are going to look at some evil women in the Bible whose sin was pivotal in impacting the lives of others

I. Eve

- A. Committed the first sin
- B. Involved someone else in her sin - Gen. 3:6

II. Job's Wife

- A. Ridiculed her husband and was blasphemous toward God - Job 2:9-10
- B. The Targums (Jewish writings) call her Dinah and include a larger soliloquy from her: "How long dost thou stand steadfast, saying, 'Behold, I wait yet a little longer looking for the hope of my Salvation?' Behold thy memorial is already blotted out from the earth, together with thy sons and thy daughters, the fruits of my pains and labors, for whom with anxiety I have labored in vain. Thyself also sittest in the rottenness of worms night and day, while I am a wanderer from place to place, and from house to house, waiting for the setting of the sun, that I may rest from my labors, and from the griefs which oppress me. Speak therefore some word against God, and die."

III. Delilah

- A. Woman from a tiny, obscure country village; offered three year's salary for a grown man; may have been overwhelmed, but probably abandoned her country values very quickly - Judges 16:4-5
- B. Proceeded to deceive and manipulate a man in love with her - Judges 16:6-21

IV. Athaliah

- A. Raised her son to be evil - 2Kings 8:26-27
- B. Took the throne by multiple assassinations - 2Kings 11:1-3
- C. Hypocritically cried treason when it happened to her - 2Kings 11:12-15

V. Zeresh

- A. Haman's wife and evil counselor - Esther 5:14
- B. Coldly, calculatingly abandoned him to his death - Esther 6:13

VI. Solomon's Evil Woman

- A. Seducer, betrayer, promise breaker with the power to ensure a lifetime of sorrow and an eternity of suffering for a man - Prov. 2:16-19, 7:6-23

Conclusion:

- A. Woman's capacity for evil: first sin, first to lead another person into sin, ridiculed the suffering, blasphemed God, sold integrity for money, deceit, manipulation, corruption of a minor, murderer, hypocrite, plots genocide, seduction, betrayal, promise breaking
- B. "There is no reason for women to consider themselves inferior to men. Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacity. If by strength were measured by moral power, then woman would be stronger than man." (Gandhi)
- C. Prov. 21:10-31