



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
March 14, 2017

Jezebel

FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES

Jezebel was thoroughly seduced by the dark side of political power. Once a man named Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to the king. Jezebel arranged to have him falsely accused of blasphemy and stoned to death. Thus Ahab got his vineyard. Such corruption requires a suitable punishment and God did not disappoint. After King Ahab was killed in battle, an army commander named Jehu was given the task of destroying the king's descendants---as well as his notorious window. Jezebel was preparing for Jehu's arrival when her own servants grabbed her and threw her from a window to her death. Before Jezebel's body could be given a proper burial, it was eaten by stray dogs.

Small Group Opener:

When and where have you seen righteousness prevail over evil in your life? _____

MAIN BIBLE STUDY:

Please read the verses and answer the following questions.

1. What descriptive words about Jezebel's personality do these verses bring to mind?

• I Kings 19:1-2 _____

• I Kings 21:7-8 _____

• I Kings 21:15 _____

• With which of the above characteristics do you identify most, and why? _____

2. Through his prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, the Lord God spoke strongly against the Jezebels of the day, and today. What ungodly behaviors did the prophets point to, as recorded in the following verses?

• 2 Kings 19:22 _____

• Isaiah 46:12 _____

• Jeremiah 17:23 _____

3. Note the tone and content of Jezebel's dialogue in I Kings 21:1-7. What do you "hear in your head" as you read? _____

- Imagine one of your family members was lying on their bed, sulking and refusing to eat...or go to work/school...or to help out with the housework. How might your own "thinking, feeling, response" might your own commentary sound like Jezebel's words?

• What do the following verses tell us about how the Lord evaluates our spoken words?

◦ Proverbs 8:13 _____

◦ Matthew 12:34-37 _____

◦ Now read James observation about our tongues (James 3:1-12). Do you agree? _____

Why or why not? _____

4. Jezebel insisted that she would get Ahab his neighbor's vineyard. Re-read I Kings 21:8-10; how did she do it? _____

5. You may not identify with pushy Jezebel, but she's probably a lot like someone you know or have to interact with. Read Romans 12:16 and I Corinthians 13:4-5. In light of the wisdom found in these verses, how could you lovingly interact with the Jezebel's in your life without resorting to their sinful tactics? _____

6. Ahab was equally, evil, and it's clear where he learned such behavior. Look what the Bible tells about his father, King Omri. Jot down the words that point to Omri's wickedness.

• I Kings 16:25 _____

• I Kings 16:26 _____

7. Ahab not only succeeded Omri as king of Israel, he succeeded in topping his dad in the decadence department. According to the following verses, what are some of the things Ahab did that angered God?

• I Kings 16:30 _____

• I Kings 16:31 _____

• I Kings 16:32 _____

• I King 16:33 _____

8. Too bad Ahab and Jezebel didn't have Psalm 40:4 written across the doorpost of their home. Whom does the psalmist say will be blessed? _____
And who will not? _____

Going Further – Additional Study

- A. The key that unlocks the door to God's grace is repentance. But first we have to realize that, like Jezebel, we are sinners. What do these verses state very clearly?
- Isaiah 64:6 _____
 - Romans 3:9 _____
 - Romans 3:10 _____
 - Romans 3:12 _____
- B. Now the good news! If we repent, God is more than ready to show us grace. Written hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, the following verses for the Old Testament attest to the unchangeable nature of a God of forgiveness and mercy. What promises does God make here?
- Ezekiel 18:30 _____
 - Ezekiel 18:31 _____
 - Ezekiel 36:26 _____
 - Ezekiel 36:27 _____
- C. Read Isaiah 53:6 and Romans 6:23. What is God's provision for our sin? _____

- D. Is there an area in your life right now where you need to confess your sin, repent, and accept the sacrificial gift of God's grace? _____

- E. We're never told that Jezebel repented; her grisly end, prophesied by Elijah in I Kings 21:23-24 is certain proof of that. What about Ahab...did he repent? Read I Kings 21:27, then note several things that Ahab did to demonstrate his change of heart. _____

- F. Read I Kings 21:29 to find out how God responded to Ahab's humble display. What "good news" and "bad news" does the Lord pronounce?
- Good news: _____
 - Bad news: _____

G. Because Jezebel did not repent, she was not spared. Proverbs 7:26 fits Jezebel in her role as the uncrowned queen of Israel. Proverbs 12:4 might describe Jezebel in her role as the uncrowned queen of Ahab. Why do you think Ahab allowed his wife to rule over him?

- Do you think Ahab contributed to his wife's wicked ways? If so, how? _____

- What could Ahab have done to prevent his kingship from turning into the most evil one recorded in Scripture? _____

H. For each line of the following verses in Luke, jot down a word or two to remind you what you need to do when a modern Jezebel crosses her path.

- Luke 6:27 _____

- Luke 6:28 _____

- Luke 6:29 _____

- Luke 6:30 _____

- Luke 6:31 _____

- Luke 6:36 _____