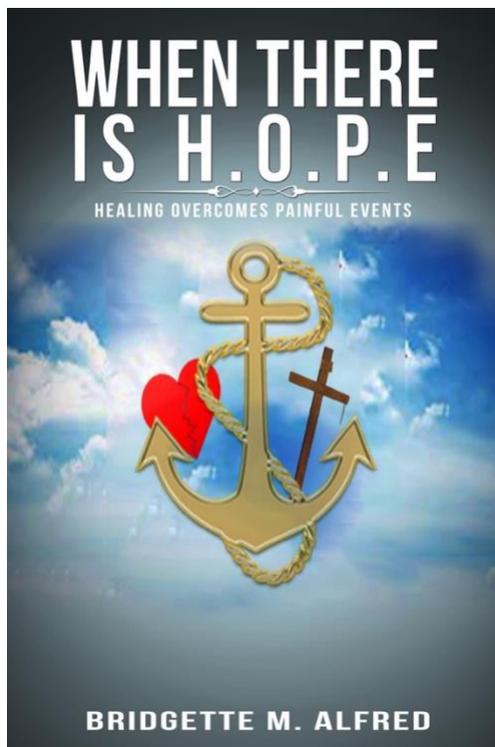


When There Is H.O.P.E. (Healing Overcomes Painful Events)

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE - Week Five,
Thursday, July 15, 2021**



Gwendolyn, Delilah, and Herodias

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GWENDOLYN

Gwendolyn had Hope in her ability to manipulate people to do whatever she wanted. This excerpt reveals Gwendolyn evil plans of her father's murder and cover up:

Aunt Rebecca had talked with Ms. Duplantier during the months that Uncle Earl and his company were renovating the mansion. She told my father, "Gwendolyn just told him those things because she wanted to hurt him. Gwendolyn's father had disowned her. He only kept her around to watch over his grandsons. She was very empty inside after you left. Gwendolyn never stopped loving you. Losing you turned her into a very bitter woman."

"Gwen said, *Today was my father's birthday*. Gwendolyn started telling me how her father treated her terribly after the boys were born and how she looked like her mother but having children out of wedlock by a Creole shrimp farmer was a disgrace to the memory of her. She was a saint. He accused Gwen of tarnishing the Duplantier family name. The only good thing that he felt came from the mess was his two grandsons and he was going to model them into his image. Her father boasted that the boys would be his legacy.

"Gwen explained that she couldn't let that happen. She seduced one of her father's bodyguards because her father treated him badly and because he blamed him for letting her get pregnant. She said they both were in limbo and had a bond. The bodyguard made a poisonous concoction and she baked it in a French apple tart, which was her father's special dessert that he had before bed every night."

"Gwen said with disgust she had to learn how to bake this dessert because her mother used to fix it for him. There was no proof or evidence of the poisoning. Her father was declared dead by natural causes. He died at his desk one night. I asked her why she was telling me all this. She told me that it was heavy on her heart and that, after this renovation is complete, she probably would never see me again. Gwendolyn even pointed out that no one would ever believe me if I tried to tell anyone."

My father said, "Well, it turns out Gwen was more like her father than he thought."

Reflection: What behavior might you see in your life that you disliked in your parents or grandparents?

DELILAH

Read Judges 16:4-15

Reflection: Do you think Delilah ever had the same feelings for Samson as he had for her?

Read Judges 16:16-20

Reflection: Do you think Delilah gave one thought to what the Philistines was going to do to Samson?

Reflection: Describe how Gwendolyn and Delilah lives are similar.

HERODIAS

Read Matthew 14:3-11

Reflection: Do you think Herodias knew Herod well enough for her evil plan to work?

Read Mark 6:17-28

Reflection: Do you think Herodias would had tolerated John if she weren't convicted by her sin?

Reflection: Describe how Gwendolyn and Herodias lives are similar.
