

Womanist Theology

Part Two: Elizabeth and Mary

STM Advent/Epiphany Series

conducted by D. White

Review:

Hermeneutics: *The study of the general principles of **biblical interpretation** (emphasis mine). The sacred status of the Bible in Judaism and Christianity rests upon the conviction that it is a receptacle of divine revelation.* Encyclopaedia Britannica

NT Wright:

For too long we have read Scripture with nineteenth century eyes and sixteenth century questions. It's time to get back to reading with first century eyes and twenty first century questions.

Katie G. Cannon lifting up “questions of faith that history might otherwise forget.” *Black womanists search the Scriptures to learn how to dispel the threat of death in order to seize the present life.*

Womanist Midrash, by The Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney

Because of legal prohibitions against African literacy in the Americas and normalization of androcentric interpretations intended to disempower nonmale and nonheterosexual readers, direct access to the text in the company of a learned sister is an empowering and transformational experience for many black Christian women and men (and siblings).

Come and Dine

Womanist theology does not seek to eliminate other views. The intent is to see womanists interpretations presented along with other interpretations.

W. Gafney: Womanist theology is **womanish**: talking back to the biblical text; challenging the text; questioning it; interrogating it; unafraid of the power and authority of the text. **You are wrestling with the text.** (Questioning is not an indication of lacking love and respect for the text.)

Highlights from Emilie Townes article

... Womanist theology evolved from the life and witness of Black women

It was born in the womb of Black women's experiences and has been cultivated throughout history

It acknowledges that ***all theological reflection is limited*** by human cultural, social, and historical contexts (these limits are not negative, but representative of our humanity)

Ultimately, womanist theology points us to the largeness of God and the various ways in which human beings often seek to confine God.

Keep in mind: ***In dominant ethics, the freedom of choice is assumed.***

Sources

Womanist Theology, Emilie Townes (an article)

Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne,
by Wilda C. Gafney

Just A Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationships in the Bible,
Renita Weems