

# Elijah

*Week 6: 1 Kings 19:19–21, 21:1–29*

## Jot down some thoughts and discuss...

1. How did you come to realize what you wanted to do for a living?

## Recap

1. God told Elijah to \_\_\_\_\_ three leaders of the next generation:
  - a. Hazael as king of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Jehu as king of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ as prophet in Elijah's place.

## 1 Kings 19:19–21 (Elijah Calling Elisha)

<sup>19</sup> So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. <sup>20</sup> And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” <sup>21</sup> And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the

oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

1. Why might the author record that Elisha had twelve yoke of oxen?

2. With the toss of his cloak, Elijah called Elisha to be his \_\_\_\_\_ and successor.

*Luke 9:61–62 “Yet another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’”*

3. What is the difference between Elijah’s call of Elisha and Jesus’ call to disciples?

4. How has God/does God call you?

## Interlude of Ahab's Story (1 Kings 20)

1. God told Elijah to anoint the next king of Syria. Here we see Ahab fighting the current king of Syria.
2. Ahab LISTENED to God's prophets, and the Lord wins the battles for him.
3. But, Ahab doesn't finish the job. Instead, he releases the king in exchange for POLITICAL FAVORS.
4. An unnamed prophet confronts Ahab. Ahab is saddened by the prophet's word, but doesn't seem REPENTANT.

## 1 Kings 21:1–16 (Naboth's Vineyard)

<sup>1</sup> Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. <sup>2</sup> And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." <sup>3</sup> But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." <sup>4</sup> And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

1. Ahab's offer sounds pretty \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Naboth is \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. (Lev. 25:23 “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.”)
3. Note how \_\_\_\_\_ this climate is from how Elijah’s story began.
4. What sin(s) does Ahab commit?

<sup>5</sup> But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?” <sup>6</sup> And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’” <sup>7</sup> And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” <sup>8</sup> So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. <sup>9</sup> And she wrote in the letters, “Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. <sup>10</sup> And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, ‘You have cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”

5. What sin(s) does Ahab commit?

6. What sin(s) does Jezebel commit?

7. Throughout this scheme, Jezebel \_\_\_\_\_ God's Law.

<sup>11</sup> And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, <sup>12</sup> they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. <sup>13</sup> And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. <sup>14</sup> Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead." <sup>15</sup> As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead." <sup>16</sup> And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

8. What sin(s) do the people of Israel commit?

9. What sin(s) does Jezebel commit?

10. What sin(s) does Ahab commit?

### **1 Kings 21:17–29 (Elijah Confronts Ahab)**

<sup>17</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, <sup>18</sup> “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. <sup>19</sup> And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Have you killed and also taken possession?”’” And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood.”’”

<sup>20</sup> Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD. <sup>21</sup> Behold, I will bring disaster upon you. I will utterly burn you up, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. <sup>22</sup> And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin. <sup>23</sup> And of Jezebel the LORD also said, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.’ <sup>24</sup> Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat.”

1. Ahab shows his \_\_\_\_\_ when he calls Elijah his enemy.

2. Is this punishment just?

<sup>25</sup> (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. <sup>26</sup> He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.) <sup>27</sup> And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly. <sup>28</sup> And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, <sup>29</sup> “Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son’s days I will bring the disaster upon his house.”

3. Why do you think the author included this note about Ahab and Jezebel’s wickedness?

4. Elijah in verse 20 and the author in verse 25 both say that Ahab has “sold himself” to evil. What does this word choice communicate?

5. Has Ahab truly repented? How might we know?

## **Closing Discussion**

1. How was the Word of God at work in these two stories? (Elisha's call and Ahab/Jezebel condemned)

2. How can we better react to God's Word?