

1 Kings 21

Love

I. Naboth's Vineyard

1 And it came to pass **after these things...**

- **After what things?**

1. After Israel's victory over Syria
2. After Ahab allowed King of Syria to live
3. After God pronounces judgment for Ahab: **Your life for his life**

1 Kings 21:43 So the king of Israel went to his house **sullen and displeased**, and came to Samaria.

- Ahab goes home to Jezebel sullen / displeased...

1b...Naboth the Jezreelite had a **vineyard** which was in Jezreel, **next to the palace** of Ahab king of Samaria.

- Moping around Palace all dressed up no place to go

Looks out Palace window at neighbor's vineyard

2 So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "**Give me your vineyard**, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

- **Give me your Vineyard**

1. I want a vegetable garden
2. Your vineyard is perfect/close to my house
3. I'll buy it or get you a better one...

- **NOTE:** Ahab could see Jerusalem 30 miles to south from his palace but wanted more

3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

[People of Israel] ...believed that the land was an inheritance from God, parceled out to individual tribes and families according to His will. Therefore land was never really sold, only leased – and that only under the most dire circumstances. Real Estate offices in ancient Israel didn't do very good business. [Guzik]

Numbers 36:7 ...the inheritance of the children of Israel **shall not change hands** from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

- This is an inheritance given by God to my family...

4 So Ahab went into his house **sullen and displeased** because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers."

Ahab was "messed up" because he did not get his way. Bad week...

- First the prophet says he is going to die for letting King of Syria live
- Next Naboth his servant tells Ahab the King of Israel **NO**

... And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

When we see a baby wearing diapers and drinking milk from bottle we say it's cute
When we see a 35 year old man drinking milk out of a bottle...not so cute

- Sanctification mean growing up...becoming mature believer

Ephesians 4:14 [Read] ... we should **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...

- **Edifying each other in love**; i.e. considering others better than ourselves
 1. Not so Touchy/Offended
 2. Not so Selfish
 3. Not given to self-pity...

... **Blasphemous**: Utilizing the tool of Self-Pity we seek others to focus us rather than God

- **Sullen/Displeased and showing it!**
 1. Laid on bed
 2. Turned head away
 3. Eat no food

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" 6 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 pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

- **Pathetic...**
 1. "Puppet" of a husband whining to wife
 2. Domineering wife wearing pants

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands...dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

As husbands we are to strengthen our wives not load them down with our whining

- **Gen 3 Curse regarding the wife:** Your desire will be to rule your husband

Following Solomon's example Ahab rolls over...like my dog

II. Jezebel: Institutes Imminent Domain

7 Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

You are King! You are in control of all Israel!

I'll go and get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite

8 And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. 9 She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; 10 and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king."

- **Jezebel's sends a letter in Ahab's name**
- Ahab's seal stamped on letter and sent to Elders/Nobles of Naboth's town
 1. **Proclaim a fast...**We must seek the Lord on a matter that has offended Him
 2. Naboth to sit at the seat of honor

Seat 2 "scoundrels" on either side of Naboth

- **Scoundrels:** Lit. "Sons of Belial" or "sons of the devil"
- Easy to find a scoundrel if you pay them enough money...

Proverbs 19:28 A disreputable witness scorns justice, And the mouth of the wicked devours [eats up] iniquity.

- **Deut. 17:6:** Two witnesses required for capital offense

Have the 2 sons of the devil accuse the innocent man of blasphemy

10b...Then take him out, and stone him, **that he may die.**

- **Penalty for blasphemy:** Death

Leviticus 24:16 ...whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death.

- **Penalty for false accusations?** Death

Deuteronomy 19:16 [Read] If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, 17 then both men in the controversy shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. 18 And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has **testified falsely against his**

brother, 19 then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. 20 And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. 21 Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

- **Not a whole lot of crime in ancient Israel.** Jails unheard of.
- **Eye for Eye:** Method to *restrain* from penalty too harsh for the crime

Falsely accusing Naboth of blasphemy was in itself punishable by death

11 So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them. 12 They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

Alexander Maclaren noted three types of dangerous characters in this chapter: [1] Ahab who was wicked and weak. [2] Jezebel who was wicked and strong. [3] The Elders of Jezreel, who were wicked and subservient.

13 And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before [Naboth]; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "**Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!**"

Exodus 22:28 "You shall not **revile God**, nor curse a ruler of your people"

13b...Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, **so that he died.**

- Killed an innocent man; not as perfectly innocent as Jesus
- **2 Kings 9:26** Tells us Naboth's sons were also slaughtered

14 Then they **sent to Jezebel**, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

- **NOTE:** Sent to Jezebel though command to kill Naboth was supposedly from Ahab?

15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that 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." 16 So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

- **Off his bed...** little bite to eat an Ahab runs to his new playground

Fun for a while as all ill-gotten gain

Ahab never possessed the vineyard of Naboth. He held it, but that very fact became to him a torment. However fine the vintage, for him the grapes were [bitter], poisonous... That which is gained by fraud is never possessed." [Morgan]

How did this happen? What started this to end in murder of an innocent man?

- Ugliness of our old nature in clear view
- **Flesh:** That which wars against the Spirit of God in us...

James 4:1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war.

- We don't get what *we want*
- Things don't go the way *we plan*
- That person don't act the way *we think* they should

We fight and war to get our way and when we don't we become...
"Sullen and Displeased"

- **Sullen:** Lit heavy. From "to rebel" be stubborn, to backslide, Act like a baby
- **Displeased:** angry, raging, no sense of humor, vexed

SUMMARY Naboth Murdered for his Vineyard

II. Busted: Elijah's Back

17 Then the word of the Lord came to **Elijah the Tishbite**, saying, 18 "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. 19 You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"'"

Elijah completing his ministry before the Chariot of Fire escorts him to paradise
God's Familiar Words to Elijah: **"Arise and go"**

- **Mission:**
 1. Go to Ahab who will be gardening in "the vineyard of Naboth"
 2. Tell him I saw him murder Naboth and steal his property
- Ahab/Jezebel's combined sin: Covetousness, Lying, Murder, and Stealing

**All said and done...Breaking 4 of 10 Commandments
God will Judge...**

19b...And you [Elijah] shall speak to [Ahab], saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours."'"

Tell Ahab he has been weighed in the balance and is found wanting

- Elijah sent by God to Ahab's palace...

20 So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

- 18:17 Ahab calls Elijah the “troubler of Israel” though Ahab caused the drought
- **Here:** “My enemy”?

Those seeking righteousness and truth are seen as enemies
 ...By those bent on evil and falseness

Matthew 5:11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. [Don’t be surprised...instead...] 12 **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- **You’ve found me...**my enemy...

20b... And [Elijah] answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the **sight of the Lord:**

- **Sold yourself** to do evil
 1. Sold the person God created you to be for a hollow shell
 2. Sold the purpose God created you for your own pleasure
 3. Sold the beauty God could have made you for the ugliness filth of sin
- Sold yourself to do evil...**In the sight of the Lord**

I found you because what you did was in plain sight of the omnipresent One

- God is EVERYWHERE at all times

Psalms 139:7 [David] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me; 12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The **darkness and the light are both alike to You.**

- God saw everything Ahab and Jezebel did...

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- The evil you did was in the sight of the Lord...who says:

21 ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. 22 I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah

- **Judgment:** No sons left to carry on line

22b... because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.’

- **You provoked Me to anger:**

1. For years you caused Israel to worship idols
2. For years I have held off judgment
3. Naboth: Straw that broke camel's back

Ahab took God's goodness for granted...

Romans 2:4 ...do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds"

- **BTW:** I have been keeping track of Jezebel also...

23 And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' 24 The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

- **Ahab:** No descendants:
 1. Dogs will eat your children in the City
 2. Birds will eat them in the fields
- **Jezebel:**
 1. Eaten personally by dogs
 2. Place of death? Wall of Jezreel

2 Kings 9:35 So they went to bury [Jezebel], but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

25 But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, **because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.**

His wife "stirred him up"?

Genesis 3:17 [Adam cursed for listening to his wife...] "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it'

A wife filled with God's holy Spirit can be the most comforting voice on earth

- Jezebel was a rebellious evil wife who helped to enable Ahab to sin
- **Stirred him up:** Let the persuade, incite, instigate, entice

Luke 17:1 [Sin will come...] ...but woe to him through whom they do come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

**Can a person be swayed to sell themselves to evil
Because someone else stirs them up to sin?**

- Yes but they are not innocent
- Bible teaches personal responsibility

My best friend stirred me up to sin for 14 years before he overdosed on Heroin/Cocaine
He stirred me up but I am fully responsible my sin and allowing him to influence me

Everyone fails but no one is a failure until they blame someone else

- God will not except excuses for your actions/unbelief
 1. Christians are all hypocrites
 2. They call themselves a Christian and...
- Judgment will be about you and your sin alone

Hebrews 4:13b ...all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

**Blaming other will not be permissible evidence at judgment
The only permissible evidence to prove innocence will be the blood of Christ**

26 And [Ahab] behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the **Amorites** had done, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.

- Amorites were cast out of the land for idolatry
- Israel would follow

27 So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.

- **Ahab took to heart his *past sin* and his *future judgment*...**
 1. Tore clothes
 2. Put on sackcloth
 3. Fasted
 4. Went about the city he ruled from...mourning

28 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 "See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house."

- **Word of the Lord to Elijah**

1. Ahab humbled himself
2. True repentance?
3. **Calamity postponed...but not pardoned**

I will begin judgment on Ahab's house with his son
Who will walk ways of his parents Ahab and Jezebel. Sad

At the end of the day Ahab and Jezebel broke 4 of Big 10 Commandments
To acquire "that" vegetable garden...fulfill desires of the flesh

- Jesus saved us from ourselves...

Ephesians 2:3 [Read]... we all once conducted ourselves in the **lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath**, just as the others. 4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His **great love** with which He loved us, 5 **even when we were dead in trespasses**, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

1. God loved us when we were dead in sin
2. God loved us when he made us alive with Jesus
3. God loved us when He raised us with Jesus

God looks forward to loving us by lavishing us with His kindness for all eternity