



## Silverdale Baptist Church

Days of Elijah ~ When Bad Things Happen to Good People ~ 11/18-19/2023  
1 Kings 21:1-26

### Big Idea

Coveting and a sense of entitlement will lead to injustice, stealing, and the judgment of God.

### Getting Started

Pastor Tony started his message by asking us if we felt like the bad guys were winning in this world.

**When was the last time you felt like the bad guys were winning? Tell us about it.**

### Learn

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 KINGS 21:1-7

1. [Coveting – Desiring What You Don't Have](#) (1 Kings 21:2)

**On the surface, Ahab's request seems reasonable. Why does Naboth refuse to sell or trade the vineyard?**

2. [Entitled – Pouting When Denied Your Desires](#) (1 Kings 21:4-7)

**When in this story is it obvious Ahab has crossed the line from interested in the vineyard to coveting the vineyard?**

**The King of Israel pouts like a child. Where do we see the same attitudes and actions in our society?**

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 KINGS 21:8-16

3. [Injustice – Destroying Those In Your Way](#) (1 Kings 21:8-10)

**How is the evil of Jezebel seen in these verses?**

**How do we see similar evil in our world today?**

| HAVE SOMEONE READ 1 KINGS 21:17-24

4. [Stealing – Acquiring What’s Not Yours](#) (1 Kings 21:17-18)

**If the head of a household dies, who would we expect to inherit the land?**

**But what does Ahab do?**

This passage shows the foolishness of the King of Israel, Ahab, who acts like a spoiled child. But Jezebel isn't simply foolish; she is pure evil.

**How do you see the depth of Jezebel’s evil in these verses?**

5. [Judgment – God’s Response to Sin](#) (1 Kings 21:19-23)

**How does Ahab play the victim in this story?**

Sometimes, we see evil situations in this world, and we wonder why God lets bad people destroy good people. We wonder, "Where is God?"

**How does God respond to Ahab's foolishness and Jezebel's evil in these verses?**

Yahweh is the God of justice! He will judge! But, in His mercy and wisdom, He sometimes waits before He brings judgment. When bad things happen to good people, trust the Lord. When justice is delayed, trust the Lord. He saw what happened, and He will accomplish His purpose.

## Apply

Coveting and a sense of entitlement will lead to injustice, stealing, and, ultimately, the judgment of God. Gratitude for what we have leads to contentment. And contentment is the cure for the disease of coveting. Remember the little song we learned as children? *Count your blessings; name them one by one. Count your blessings and see what God has done.* Stop coveting. Count your blessings.

**How is our world like or different from the days of Elijah?**

**What steps can you take to stop coveting in your own heart?**

**How are you like Ahab?**

**In what areas of your life are you playing the victim?**

**How should we respond when we see bad things happening to good people?**

**When bad things are happening to us, how will we respond?**

**How has the Holy Spirit spoken to you from this message?**

## Pray

Father, teach us to be aware of coveting. We live in a prosperous world, and we often fall prey to the consumerism around us. Lord, teach us to count our blessings and be content with what You have provided. And, Father, when we see or fall victim to injustice, help us respond properly, knowing that You are the ultimate judge. And, Father, cause us to grow up, take responsibility for our actions, and quit playing the victim in this world. In Jesus' name, amen.