

True Strength in Turbulent Times
“Overcoming Injustice God’s Way”
Growth Group Discussion
1 Kings 21

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Can you think of any specific injustices in recent memory—either personal or societal—which have moved you at an emotional level?
- Begin with prayer. Acknowledge the instances you have just shared, and the associated emotions. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

1. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16

- As king of Israel, Ahab would not only have to abide by the same laws as civilians; he would have had the added responsibility of protecting God’s people and ensuring justice was done. What picture do you get of Ahab’s character here, with regard to his character as king? In how many ways does his behavior dishonor God?
 - Does Ahab’s behavior remind you of any other biblical stories? (See 1 Samuel 11).
 - Does Ahab’s behavior remind you of any current events (or other events in not-too-distant history)?
 - What emotional reaction do you have to Ahab or these other injustices you have mentioned?
- Do you think that you—or we, collectively—have a responsibility to do justice, which is being neglected? Why or why not?

2. READ 1 Kings 21:17-26

- In your own words, what will be the consequences of Ahab and Jezebel’s sins?
- How do you feel about God’s words through Elijah in this scene? Is God’s response just or unjust, in your eyes?
- On Sunday, Pastor Erik said, “God avenges injustice by eventually bringing disaster on the guilty.” How do you feel about this principle?

3. Read 1 Kings 21:27-29

- Are you surprised by Ahab’s repentance, in v. 27? Why or why not?
- What reaction do you have to God’s response to Ahab’s repentance?
- Read Exodus 34:6-7. Erik referenced this passage as a background text.
 - How can God be both merciful and just in punishing sin?
 - How did both of these aspects of God’s character find fulfillment in the death of Jesus?

4. Application

- Are there clear areas where you need to confess and repent?
- What things are you neglecting to bring before God out of fear that he will no longer love you?
- Are there people to whom you need to extend forgiveness and mercy?
- With regard to the injustices you have discussed throughout this meeting, what do you think a godly response from us would look like, in view of this Bible Study?

PRAYER:

- Pray in response to what God has shown you through this study and discussion.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.