

## **Love Stories— The Signs You Keep Ignoring**

*... [Ahab] did more to provoke the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him.*

1 Kings 16:33 NLT

*... No one else so completely sold himself to what was evil in the LORD's sight as Ahab did under the influence of his wife Jezebel.*

1 Kings 21:25 NLT

### **2 Dangerous Dynamics in Relationships**

- **A controlling spirit that seeks to dominate**
- **A passive spirit that refuses to engage**

*One day Ahab said to Naboth, “Since your vineyard is so convenient to my palace, I would like to buy it to use as a vegetable garden. ...”*

*<sup>3</sup>But Naboth replied, “The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors.” <sup>4</sup>So Ahab went home angry and sullen because of Naboth's answer. The king went to bed with his face to the wall and refused to eat!*

1 Kings 21:2-4 NLT

### **3 Red Flags of a Passive Spirit**

- **They lack direction and rarely take initiative.**
- **They avoid hard conversations.**
- **They defer responsibility and make excuses.**

**A passive heart in dating leads to a passive partner in marriage.**

*... [Eve] took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6 NIV*

*Jezebel his wife said, “Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” 1 Kings 21:7 NIV*

**Your words will shape your relationship for better or for worse.**

*The tongue has the power of life and death ... Proverbs 18:21 NIV*

**He is becoming what you see in him and what you say about him.**

*So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth’s city with him. <sup>9</sup>In those letters she wrote: “Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. <sup>10</sup>But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death.” 1 Kings 21:8-10 NIV*

### **3 Red Flags of a Controlling Spirit**

- **They use guilt or pressure to control you.**
- **They don’t trust you and constantly check up on you.**
- **They make all the decisions, and your voice doesn’t matter.**

*... “This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!”*

*1 Kings 21:19 NIV*

*When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.*

*1 Kings 21:27 NIV*

## TALK IT OVER

Read **1 Kings 21:2-4** and **1 Kings 21:7-10**. How do you see the dynamics of a passive spirit and a controlling spirit playing out in the story of Ahab and Jezebel?

Are you more likely to have a passive spirit or a controlling spirit? How might this impact your closest relationships?

If you're in a relationship, is there an aspect of that relationship that feels dysfunctional right now? How can you share about that with one another, and find healing with God?