

Elijah and Elisha

#10, Naboth's vineyard – I Kings 21:1-29

This lesson picks up back at Jezreel and the difficulty Ahab had with an owner of a vineyard.

1 Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money." 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

4 So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?" 6 So 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 a vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" 7 Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

[1.] v:1, Give me your vineyard, **Jot down**
1) Ahab's reasons for wanting the vineyard and
2) the price he was willing to pay.

[2.] v:3, The Lord forbid, **What reason did**
Naboth give for declining the offer?

[3.] v:4, came into his house, **How did the king**
of Israel take being denied what he wanted?

[4.] v:5-7, let your heart be joyful, **After**
listening to the cause of Ahab's sadness, what did
Jezebel promise?

[5.] v:7, I will give you the vineyard, **Why**
might Ahab jump at Jezebel's promise?

[6.] v:7 again, I will give you the vineyard,
When he couldn't accomplish this, why do you
think Ahab assumed Jezebel could?

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8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city.

9 Now she wrote in the letters, saying, "Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people; 10 and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, ' You cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."

11 So the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them, just as it was written in the letters which she had sent them. 12 They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people. 13 Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the worthless men testified against him, even against Naboth, before the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

14 Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead." 15 When 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."

[7.] v:8, in Ahab's name, **Why wouldn't the elders and nobles know who really sent the letters?**

[8.] v:9-10, two worthless men, **According to Jezebel's plan, their word was supposed to require the elders and nobles to do what?**

[9.] v:11-13, testified against him, **What did the worthless men say?**

[10.] v:13, outside the city, **What act made Jezebel's plan a success?**

[11.] v:13 again, outside the city, **What might the folks who were invited to the fast really think of this little incident that they witnessed?**

[12.] v:14-15, Arise, take possession, **Jezebel only gave Ahab part of the whole story. Why would you suppose she held back some revealing facts?**

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16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 "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 down to take possession of it.

19 "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord, " Have you murdered and also taken possession?"' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord, " In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours.

20 Ahab said to Elijah, " Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord. 21 "Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel; 22 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, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and because you have made Israel sin.

[13.] v:16, take possession of it, **Kowing Ahab, why do you think he didn't give it any further thought?**

[14.] Question [14.] **Why do you feel that God does not ignore the lies and mayhem that happen in the world you live in?**

[15.] v:17-18, go down to meet Ahab, **If you were Ahab, what might you think of this command?**

[16.] v:19, you murdered, **The Lord is accusing Ahab. Why didn't He accuse Jezebel and the elders and nobles?**

[17.] v:20-22, will cut off, **Besides the death sentence, what else was going to happen to Ahab's family?**

[18.] v:22, made Israel sin, **What did Ahab institute that caused this?**

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23 "Of Jezebel also has the Lord spoken, saying, ' The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.' 24 " The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and the one who dies in the field the birds of heaven will eat." 25 Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him. 26 He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the sons of Israel. 27 It came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently.

28 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son's days."

[19.] v:23-26, The dogs, What did God have in store for Jezebel?

[20.] v:27, heard these words, What did the Lord's message do to Ahab?

[21.] v:28-29, Do you see, When the Lord saw Ahab's contrite heart He adjusted His sentence. How did God change things for Ahab?

Self Evaluation:

[22.] In what areas of life does the Bible call men to lead?

[23.] How am I doing in assuring that of my wife and children are continually growing in God's word?

[24.] What can I expect from God if I fail to lead in these areas?

[25.] How might I improve to the glory of God?

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NOTES