

## Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1-29

### I. AHAB'S CHARACTER

#### A. His Crime: murder and theft, but this included many other sins (v. 19)

1. **Abuse of Authority** (v. 22b; Ezek 34:2-3; Lk 12:48)
2. **Covetousness** (Ex 20:7)—10<sup>th</sup> commandment
3. **Conspiracy**—involved and compelled *others* to sin
  - a. **False Witness** (Ex 20:16)—**9<sup>th</sup> commandment**; corrupt legal system
  - b. **Murder** (Ex 20:13; Deut 24:16; 2 Kings 9:26)—6<sup>th</sup> commandment
4. **Theft** (Ex 20:15)—**8<sup>th</sup> commandment**; taking Naboth's property

#### B. His Nature

1. **Morally weak**—a spineless man with a smidgeon of conscience!
2. **Sulks when thwarted** (v. 4)—acts like a spoiled child
3. **Slave of Sin** (vs. 20, 25-26)—gave himself over to it

#### C. His Marriage (v. 25)

1. **A Marriage of Equals**—*rare* in that day
  - Sometimes a peaceful marriage means worshipping same idols.
2. **Codependent Relationship** (v. 7)—work in tandem, support in sin

### II. GOD'S CHARACTER

#### A. He is Just. (Ex 34:7; Ps 103:6; Na 1:3)

1. **Every person, great or small, is accountable to God.** (Lev 19:15; Job 34:18-19; Acts 10:34; Rom 14:10)
2. **Justice is not completely realized in this life.** (Acts 17:31; Rom 2:16; 1 Cor 4:5)—the Day will come!
  - a. **Belief in God's justice requires faith.** Satan and world mock

**b. Delayed punishment allows time for repentance.** (Rom 2:4; Heb 3:7)

**B. He is All-Knowing.** (vs. 17-18, 28-29; Mat 12:36; Heb 4:13; 1 Jn 3:20)

- 1. God knows and cares about all people**—kings, common people
- 2. Nothing is hidden from His sight.**

**C. He is Merciful.** (Ezek 18:23, 32; 33:11)

- 1. God does not enjoy punishing the wicked.**
- 2. God provides opportunity to repent.**

### **III. THE MESSAGE OF REBUKE** (vs. 17-20)

**A. The Prophet of God** (vs. 17, 20)—sent to confront sin

**B. The Threat of Judgment** (vs. 19-24)

- 1. Prophecy (threat of punishment) is an opportunity to repent.** (v. 27; 2 Kings 22:19; Jonah 3:4-10)
- 2. Those who humble themselves will receive mercy.** (Ps 18:27; Pr 3:34; Is 66:2b; Joel 2:32; Jas 4:6, 10; 1 Pet 5:5-6)

**C. Incomplete Repentance** (v. 27)

- 1. External submission but not internal change**
- 2. Fear of punishment but not love of God**

**D. The Danger to Our Children** (vs. 21, 29; Ex 20:5-6; Joel 2:32/Acts 2:21)

- 1. Our idolatry will affect our children.**
- 2. Our character will affect our children.**
- 3. We cannot pass on a sinless legacy; but we *can* pass on a heritage of true worship and true repentance.**

*Listen to "His Mercy Is More" at:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1GiZL60c80&feature=share>