

# Not for Sale

Message Companion

1 Kings 21

Naboth's Vineyard

Pastor Ron Laney



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This is a Message Companion to Pastor Ron's sermon entitled,

## Elijah - Part 10 - Not for Sale

### Read: 1 Kings 21:1-25

Take some time to go to our podcast "[Good News from The Grove](#)" and listen to this teaching. You can also go the Teachings page on our website [www.PleasantGrove.info](http://www.PleasantGrove.info) to access message. This is Part 10 of the series, Elijah: Someone Like Me

## Message Companion includes:

- Main Scripture
- Message Recap
- Devotions
- Questions for Thought
- Additional Scriptures

## Grace & Peace!



# Main Scripture

## 1 Kings 21:1-25 (NKJV)

1 And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

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



## 1 Kings 21

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" 6 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 another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" 7 Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 8 And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. 9 She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; 10 and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

## 1 Kings 21

11 So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them. 12 They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people. 13 And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. 14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead." 15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that 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."

16 So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

## 1 Kings 21

17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There 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 dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.'" 20 So 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 calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. 22 '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 made Israel sin.'

23 "And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' 24 "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field." 25 But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.



# Message Recap

# Message Recap

**Text: 1 Kings 21:1-25**

## Not for Sale

In a world that constantly tempts us to compromise our values, there's a great lesson to be learned from this story about Naboth's vineyard. 1 Kings 21, pits a humble, righteous vineyard owner named Naboth against the corrupt, evil King Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel. Through their encounter, we're reminded of the timeless struggle between righteousness and wickedness, and the importance of staying true to your convictions.

Naboth owned a vineyard next door to King Ahab's summer palace in Jezreel. The king, desiring the land for himself, approached Naboth with what seemed like a reasonable offer: a land swap between them or a fair market price for the property. But Naboth's response was firm and unwavering:

**"The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"**

This wasn't just about a piece of land for Naboth. This piece of land represented his family's inheritance from God, a sacred trust they were to maintain and grow. His refusal wasn't rooted in stubbornness, but in a deep reverence for God's law and the importance of preserving one's spiritual inheritance for generations to come.



Ahab's reaction to this refusal reveals a lot about his character. He retreated to his palace, sulking like a spoiled child, refusing to eat and wallowing in self-pity. Here's where our story takes a sinister turn, as Jezebel steps into the picture with a diabolical plan to acquire the vineyard by nefarious means.

Her scheme involved forged letters, false accusations, and the manipulation of an entire town to bring about Naboth's unjust murder. It's a chilling portrayal of how far unchecked evil can go when driven by greed and a lust for power.

Unfortunately, this dark story isn't just a relic of ancient history. It serves as a stark warning for us today. This kind of temptation and evil is all too present in our modern world.

**So how do we stand firm in a world that is full of sin and wickedness?**

First, we must recognize what is truly "not for sale" in our lives. For Naboth, it was his ancestral land. For us, it might be our integrity, our faith, our families, or our moral principles. We need to draw a line in the sand and declare, like Joshua of old, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Secondly, we must be vigilant against the creeping influence of covetousness in our hearts. The desire for more – be it money, possessions, power, or prestige – can slowly erode our moral foundations if left unchecked. As Jesus warned, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15).

The antidote to covetousness is gratitude and contentment. When we cultivate a heart of thankfulness for what we already have, we're less likely to be consumed by what we may think we lack. This doesn't mean we can't strive for improvement or success, but it does mean we approach life with a different perspective – one of contentment rather than a constant craving for more.

Another crucial lesson from this story is the importance of surrounding ourselves with people who will encourage us in righteousness rather than tempt us towards compromise. Ahab's downfall was greatly accelerated by his relationship with Jezebel. As the Scripture says ,

**“But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. (1 Kings 21:25). ”**

The company we keep has a profound impact on our spiritual health and moral choices.

We must also be wary of the subtle ways evil can disguise itself. Jezebel's plot against Naboth involved the perversion of religious rituals and the manipulation of the legal processes. Even today, we see how sacred things can be twisted to serve unholy purposes. This calls for discernment and a deep grounding in truth, so we can recognize and resist such deceptions.

Two big questions when it comes to a story like this are asked by Jesus Himself: **“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?**

**Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”** (Matthew 16:26) Ahab's relentless pursuit of Naboth's vineyard cost him far more than he could have imagined. It's a reminder that the things we chase after in this life – success, wealth, power – are ultimately worthless if they come at the expense of our integrity and our relationship with God and our eternal destiny.



As we navigate the complexities of modern life, let's take inspiration from Naboth's unwavering stand. In a world that seems to reward compromise, we're called to be people of conviction and integrity. This may not always be the easy path, but it's the one that leads to true peace and a right-standing with God.

Let's make a commitment today to identify what is "not for sale" in our lives – those core values and beliefs that we refuse to compromise, no matter the cost. Let's cultivate hearts of gratitude that are content with God's blessings rather than always grasping for more. And let's surround ourselves with people who will encourage us to stand firm in our faith and values.

In doing so, we'll be living testimonies to a watching world – demonstrating that there are still things in this life that are truly priceless, beyond the reach of any earthly wealth or power or temptation. May we, like Naboth, be remembered not for what we gained, but for what we refused to give up. Tell the enemy of your soul, "I'm not for sale!"

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Grace & Peace!

Pastor Ron



# Devotions

# Devo #1

## Deliver Us from Evil

Jesus, Matthew 6:13

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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Naboth's refusal to sell his vineyard reminds us that some things in life are not for sale. As believers, our faith, values, and commitment to God should be non-negotiable. In a world that constantly tempts us to compromise, we must stand firm in our convictions. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be tempted to "sell out." Ask God for strength to remain steadfast, remembering that your inheritance in Christ is far more valuable than any earthly gain.

There is real evil in the world. Jesus taught us to pray with this in mind. Ask The LORD to deliver you from the kind of evil that tempts you to compromise. In fact, this is to a constant prayer concern for us.



# Devo #2

## Beware of Covetousness

Jesus, Luke 12:15

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

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Ahab's desire for Naboth's vineyard illustrates the destructive power of covetousness. Covetousness can become one of those sins that have the power to destroy your life. We are warned against it in the 10 Commandments. Jesus warns us about the dangers of covetousness in the Gospels. Be careful what you want, because you might not want what you get. Ask The LORD to help you desire the right things, the priceless things in life. Don't waste your life by pursuing the wrong things. Discover what is good and holy and eternal and invest your life into those things.



# Devo #3

## Spiritual Amnesia

Deuteronomy 8:11-14

11 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 "lest-when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 "and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 "when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

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Ancient Israel was warned about "forgetting" The LORD. There are two seasons of life when we are tempted to forget the LORD - in hard times and in good times. Hard times can cause us to forget the goodness of God. Good times can give us spiritual amnesia to where our hearts can be lifted up in pride and we drift away from God. It is vital that we cultivate our memories about the blessings and promises of God. Being thankful in all things is a great way to exercise our faith. We must remember so we never forget. Make this a daily habit.

Take some time to offer praise and thanksgiving to The LORD for His many blessings in your life. It's amazing how reflecting on your history with God can strengthen your faith for the future.



# Questions for Thought

## Questions for Thought

How can we strengthen our spiritual memory and avoid forgetting God's moments in our lives, especially when faced with life's challenges?

In what ways might we be tempted to 'sell' our convictions or values in today's society, and how can we stand firm like Naboth?

How does the story of Ahab and Jezebel's actions against Naboth parallel modern instances of corruption or abuse of power?

What are some practical ways we can cultivate gratitude and contentment as antidotes to covetousness in our lives?

How does the portrayal of Jezebel's scheming relate to Jesus' warning about gaining the whole world but losing one's soul?

In what areas of your life might you need to recalibrate and 'surrender again' to Jesus, as the pastor describes doing in worship?

How can we discern and resist the 'spirit of the age' that leads to falling away from faith, especially in times of cultural pressure?

What lessons can we learn from the contrast between Naboth's 'not for sale' stance and Ahab's 'selling himself' to do evil?

How might regularly remembering and reflecting on God's past faithfulness help us resist temptation and stand firm in our convictions?

In what ways can we support and encourage one another to remain 'sold out' to Christ in a world that often pushes us in the opposite direction?



# Additional Scriptures

For Further Study

# Additional Scriptures

- 1 Kings 21 (main text)
  - Leviticus 25 & Numbers 36 (laws about land)
  - Joshua 24:15 "As for me and my house"
  - Exodus 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet"
  - 1 Timothy 6:6 "Godliness with contentment"
  - Matthew 16:26 "For what profit"
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## **Gratitude as an antidote to covetousness:**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Give thanks"
  - Philippians 4:10-13 'contentment'
  - 1 Timothy 6:6-11 'Godliness with contentment'
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## **A Life of Surrender:**

- Romans 12:1-2 "Present your bodies"
- Luke 9:23 'take up your cross'



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