

(1 Kings 21:1-20) "Give me thy vineyard"

(v. 2-3) Naboth said, "Its not for sale..."

(v. 20) Elijah said, "Thou hast sold thyself to work evil..."

Naboth wouldn't sell out no matter what the gain or the cost!

But, Ahab would sell out quickly if there were anything to gain.

Naboth wouldn't sell for any amount of money!

His integrity, honor, and piety were not for sale!

But, the other would sell out for the slightest gain.

Using this story, I want to preach...

Not For Sale

I. The Cast of Characters.

A. Naboth.

1. A farmer, who kept a vineyard.

- > This was his livelihood.
- > **This was how he provided for his family.**

2. A devout man who loved and honored God.

- > Determined to do right, even in the face of the king.
- > **He chose to obey God, rather than man!**

B. Ahab.

1. The worst of Israel's kings.

- > [1 Ki 16:33] "And Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."
- > **God said Ahab was the worst of Israel's kings.**

2. He was the king of Israel, but he was a real loser.

- > He controlled great armies, but couldn't control his desires.
- > **He ate the finest foods, but he had a starved soul.**
- > He held the authority of throne and scepter, yet was under the thumb of a woman.

C. Jezebel.

1. *A king's daughter, and a king's wife.*

- > She was the daughter Ethbaal, king of Tyre.
- > She was the wife of Ahab, king of Israel.

2. *She was a conniving, lying, blasphemous woman.*

- > She used her influence to cause Ahab to commit evil (v. 25).
- > Even today her name is synonymous with betrayal and wickedness.

D. Elijah.

1. *His name means Jehovah is God.*

- > "He was a man of like passions, as we are..."
- > But, he was a man of great power as we are not!

2. *In a time when most of Israel had fallen away from God, Elijah is willing to stand alone.*

- > "For the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left..."

II. The Royal Request (v. 2).

A. "Give me thy vineyard..."

1. *Ahab was not trying to cheat Naboth.*

- > He was willing to pay WELL for the property.
- > Or, trade him for a BIGGER and BETTER piece of land.

- > Naboth could have profited financially...
- > Offering Naboth a good deal!

2. *The king had full command of the nation.*

- > He had many vineyards, gardens, lands and palaces.
- > He had the land at his disposal.

3. *He may have offered Naboth much more than the vineyard was worth.*

- > He was not trying to cheat Naboth.
- > Ahab wanted the property, because it was right next to his summer palace.

B. But, Ahab forgot about God.

1. *(Lev. 25:23) God had given a command concerning buying and selling.*

- > The land was to remain in the family to whom God gave it.
- > IT WAS NEVER TO BE SOLD.

2. *Ahab saw what he wanted, and wouldn't take no for an answer.*

- > He never even thought about what God wanted.
- > All he cared for was what he wanted.

C. Ahab did not count on the Character of Naboth.

1. *Everybody has a price!*

- > It never occurred to Ahab , that there might be someone who wanted to do right.
- > That there were still people that would rather die that disobey God.

2. *He forgot about God's word.*

- > He forgot God's commands.
- > He didn't think anyone put obeying God over lots of money!

3. *How much would it take for you to sell out?*

- > How much would you be willing to forsake God for?

III. The Pouting Potentate (v. 4).

A. *It's my pity party, and I'll cry if I want to.*

1. *Ahab isn't acting like the king of Israel.*

2. *He's lying on his bed acting like a spoiled child.*

3. *He has lands and gardens more than anyone in Israel, but he want's the one he can't have.*

B. *The real reason for the king's distress!*

1. *It wasn't Naboth that troubled the king.*

- > He could have ordered Naboth to give him the land.

2. *But, Naboth said, "The Lord forbid..."*

- > It was n't Naboth-It was God!
- > Naboth might have said, "If it were up to me, I would GIVE you the property..."

3. *Ahab wasn't troubled by Naboth's refusal.*

- > He was troubled that God had refused him.
- > He wanted something that he knew was against God's word, and it frustrated him.

4. *This is the very same thing that troubles God's people today.*

- > They battle between what they want, and what is right!
- > And, its no easy battle, because the flesh will not be denied.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

5. *It's a battle between what I want, and what God wants.*

- > Ahab wasn't troubled by Naboth...
- > **He was troubled by God!**

C. The king of Israel, crying like a baby.

1. *He went to bed in the middle of the day...*

- > He turned his face to the wall.
- > **He refused to eat!**

2. *Like may a pouting Christian, mad at God because God won't let him feed his flesh.*

- > Mad at God because God won't let him have what he is lusting for.

3. *You battle between the flesh and the Spirit, and then get mad a God because He will not let you fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

- > Now, understand, God was not **PHYSICALLY** keeping Ahab from what **he wanted...**
- > It was Ahab's own conscience that was beating him over the head.

IV. The Wicked Wife (v. 5-7).

A. What's wrong?

1. *Why are you in bed already?*

- > Why won't you eat?
- > **Won't you tell me what's wrong?**

2. *Because Naboth won't sell me his vineyard!*

- > He couldn't go against his conscience...
- > **But, Jezebel could.**

3. *He knew that there was more to it than Naboth!*

- > He knew that it was God that held him back from forcing Naboth.
- > **But, she only saw the secular point of view!**

B. Notice her view of the situation:

1. *Aren't you the king? (v. 7).*

- > **Just make him give you the land!**
- > At least Ahab knew enough about God to worry;
- > **Jezebel had no spiritual inclination at all.**

2. *Get up, eat and be merry!*

- > I don't want to see you sad, get up and be happy!
- > **I'll get the vineyard for you.**

C. Lies that kill (v. 8-13).

1. Ahab knew he couldn't go against God's word, but he obviously didn't care if Jezebel did,

2. Ahab knew it wasn't about money or property lines...

- > He knew it was about God's Word.
- > **But, he was able to look the other way, so that Jezebel could...**

V. The Visit to the Vineyard (v. 14-16).

A. Ahab let Jezebel do his dirty work...

1. But, God still held Ahab responsible.

- > **Ahab was accountable for his inaction, and his wife's action!**

2. God accused the church of Thyratira of "suffering that woman Jezebel..."

- > Allowing a thing that is in your power to stop, makes you just as guilty!
- > **"Accessory before the fact - Accessory after the fact."**

3. Like it or not, the man is the head of the home.

- > Even if you're a passive pansy of a husband, God still holds you accountable...
- > **Even if your wife is a bossy, bobbed-head, bitter babe;**
- > God still holds YOU responsible for your family's action.

B. The Prohibiting Preacher (v. 18-19).

1. It seems like the preacher always hits on the very sin you are toying with.

- > **Why does the preacher have to show up, just when we're having fun?**

2. Ahab is enjoying his stroll through his new garden.

- > He is overjoyed by his new possession.
- > **But, just when he is at the height of his pleasure...**
- > A shadow crosses his path, and he recognizes the man of God!

- > **THE PARTY POOPER!**

3. "Hast thou found me, oh mine enemy?" (v. 20).

- > Notice first, that he knew God was looking for him!
- > **Then also, he considered God's man, his enemy!**

- > The Apostle Paul asked the Galatian church:
- > **"Am I become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"**

- > God's man is not your enemy, when he tells you the truth; In fact he is your best friend!

VI. The Wheels of Justice!

A. They grind slow, but they grind exceedingly fine!

1. (v. 19-23) God promised justice!

2. God always keeps His promises (1 kg 22:34-38).

3. He may wait 20 years to fulfill His promise, but He will certainly fulfill it (2 Kgs 9:1-10; 30-36).

B. (Eccl. 8:11-13) God's wheel grinds slow, but it doesn't miss a single grain!

1. Over and over the Scriptures warn of this:

> "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein..."

2. SIX THINGS ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

> THE RIGHTEOUS REFUSE TO SELL THEIR GODLY HERITAGE,

> BUT THE WICKED WILL SELL THEIR OWN SOUL.

> THE RIGHTEOUS LIVE BY CONVICTION

> BUT THE WICKED LIVE BY CONVENIENCE.

> THE RIGHTEOUS CONSIDER GOD'S WILL,

> BUT THE WICKED IGNORE GOD ALTOGETHER.

> THE RIGHTEOUS ARE CONTENT WITH STANDING ALONE,

> BUT THE WICKED FEEL WEAK AND INSCURE WITH OUT A MAJORITY.

> THE RIGHTEOUS DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WICKED,

> BUT THE WICKED WORRY MUCH ABOUT THE RIGHTEOUS.

> THE RIGHTEOUS DIE IN HONOR,

> BUT THE WICKED DIE IN DISHONOR.