

Heart Matters – Faith that stands firm

1 Kings 21: 1 - 29

1. A generous offer refused 1 - 4

- A vineyard for a vegetable garden
- Conflicting values come when a divided heart meets undivided heart
- A king refused – sulks but knows deep down he was wrong
- A divided heart is not easy to live with

2. Jezebel acts 5 - 16

- Ahab let Jezebel act for him
- His seal, his letterhead, her plan
- It was not hard to find two scoundrels
- Naboth is accused, condemned and killed
- An undivided heart suffers for doing what was right
- Ahab gets what he wanted

3. Elijah is commanded to go and pronounce God's judgement 17 - 26

- Ahab will die in the same place as Naboth was killed
- Elijah once again meets Ahab, still his enemy
- Both Ahab and Jezebel will die
- Both will not be given a proper burial

4. Ahab repents and God responds

- God's punishment is postponed
- Jezebel will die
- Ahab is eventually wounded in battle and dies 1 Kings 22:37

Digging Deeper

Read 1 Kings 21: 1 – 4

1. Trace how two Israelites ended up with very different values. What do you hold in high value and how closely would that mirror Godly values?
2. Ahab seems to be exercising a balancing act. He is King but he is unwilling to be a dictator. What stopped him from acting as Jezebel will?
3. What emotions did Ahab feel and what were their sources?

Read 1 Kings 21: 5 – 16

1. Ahab allowed Jezebel act. In what ways do we see responsibilities being avoided in our current local culture and church. What can we do to address this?
2. Evil acts find it easy to gain support. What would the nobles and elders of the town know about Naboth's faith and character? What responsibility did they have in Naboth's murder?
3. Was Naboth's faith worth it? What impact would his actions have on his family members?

Read 1 Kings 21: 17 – 26

1. What would Elijah have felt when God gave him his instructions to go to Ahab.
2. Was Elijah really Ahab's enemy?
3. How does it feel when people we are looking to minister to refuse to respond to God?
4. Was God's judgement on Ahab and Jezebel fair? What about the lack of judgement on the others involved in the plot to kill Naboth?

Read 1 Kings 21: 27 – 29

1. How does Ahab's response and God's grace in delaying judgement make you feel?