

NOT FOR SALE AT ANY PRICE

TEXT: (I Kings 21:1-14, NIV)

¹ Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth."

³ But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

⁴ So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

⁵ His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?"

⁶ He answered her, "Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, 'Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

⁷ Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. ⁹ In those letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. ¹⁰ But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

¹¹ So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. ¹² They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people. ¹³ Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. ¹⁴ Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

KEY VERSE: "But Naboth replied, 'The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers'" (I Kings 21:3, NIV).

I. COVETOUSNESS OF AHAB

1. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's" (Exodus 20:17, KJV).
2. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2, KJV).

A. Sinful Desires

1. "There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel" (I Kings 21:25-26, NIV).

B. No Joy in Sin

1. "[Moses] chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time" (Hebrews 11:25, NIV).

2. “Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4, NIV).
3. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Mathew 6:33, NIV).

II. NABOTH’S CONVICTIONS

A. Naboth Refused to Sell Out

1. “But Naboth replied, ‘The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers’” (I Kings 21:3, NIV).
2. “The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers” (I Kings 21:3, NIV).
3. “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God” (I Thessalonians 2:13, NIV).

B. A Man of Conviction

- 1 “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way” (Daniel 1:8, NIV).
2. “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3:17-18, NIV).
3. “Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’” (Acts 5:29, NIV).
5. “You cannot serve both God and Money” (Matthew 6:24, NIV).

C. Faithful to Death

1. “Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground” (Hebrews 11:35-37, NIV).
2. “So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death” (I Kings 21:13, NIV).
3. “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).
4. “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it” (Mark 8:34-35, NIV).

III. NOT FOR SALE

A. Integrity

B. Do You Have a Price?

1. “Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son” (Hebrews 12:16, NIV).

C. Spiritual Compromise Is Not an Option

1. "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" (Nehemiah 6:3, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Buy the truth and do not sell it" (Proverbs 23:23, NIV).

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how greed and covetousness can lead to other sins.
2. What are convictions? Discuss with your family some of your deep-rooted convictions concerning your Christian walk.
3. Help your family understand the meaning of integrity.
4. How might your integrity and the integrity of family members be tested?
5. Is there a price at which you would give up your faith in Jesus Christ?