

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 19 July 2015

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Naboth's Vineyard!

Introduction: In this final talk in our Elijah series, the awful murder of Naboth reveals the depths to which the characters of Ahab, Jezebel would sink to get their own way. The story also reveals

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Reflect:

Read: 1 Kings 21:1-29

Reflect:

1. Ahab - the ruinous voice of selfish greed
 - a. Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Which of the looked-for qualities of an Israelite king did Ahab lack?
 - b. What might account for Ahab's behaviour in this passage?
 - c. How might those in leadership today guard against developing an 'Ahab spirit'? (thinking not just of 'church' leaders but anyone in a leadership role of any kind at home or work).

2. Jezebel - the reasonable voice of surrounding culture.
 - a. Jezebel's formation in Phoenecia/Sidon (1 Kings 16:31) resulted in spiritual chaos in Israel, when Ahab adopted the practices of her upbringing within God's holy nation. Jesus alerted his disciples to the fact that the ways in which they were raised to think and act, may not be consistent with life in the kingdom of God. In the Sermon on the Mount, see what he points to in the 'you have heard, but I say to you...' sayings: Matt 5:21-22; 27-28; 31-32; 33-34; 38-39; 43-45.
 - b. How many of these sayings still have relevance to us today?
 - c. What other "You have heard, but I say to you.." sayings *might* Jesus speak to modern disciples, if he were training us today?

3. Elijah - the righteous voice of God
 - a. What lessons can be learned about God's opposition to violence and abuses of power in this story?
 - b. Why is the abuse of power *within Israel* so significant and abhorrent to God? (David explained this in the talk: can you remember??).
 - c. God responds positively to Ahab's show of repentance. What does this tell us about God? (and see Exodus 34:6-7)

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

Respond:

Which character in the story do you feel you have most to learn from and why?

And finally:

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?