

The Spirit of Jezebel

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The spirit of Jezebel

We'll be looking at this passage from 1 Kings 21, not only from the biblical view of diagnosing the pathology of the "Spirit of Jezebel," but also discovering what we can learn that will be empowering in our lives today.

- **1 Kings 21: 1-19**

And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

Some basics to understand

- Naboth cannot sell his vineyard, it is the inheritance from his family
- When Ahab was rejected by Naboth, he sulked in his bed
- Jezebel panders to his ego, "aren't you the king?"
- Instead of Ahab acting like the king, he eats and is merry

- Jezebel contradicts herself, and acts in place of the king
- The Jezebel spirit wants to be in a place of power behind the scenes

Jezebel must have weakness in place of authority, in order to wield power

- Ahab is weak, does not want to act in a kingly way
- Jezebel just wants to control

Jezebel has no self-controlled limits on activity

- You cannot project your normalcy on her psychopathy
- She uses manipulation, forgery, perjury, conspiracy, murder
- Jezebel spirit is a murderous spirit — has no limits

Jezebel requires people of weakness around her

- Village elders
- They know the proclamation is a forgery, they wrote back to Jezebel
- They did what she told them to do
- Accused him of blasphemy (so he could be stoned to death)
- Accused him of sedition (so his property could be forfeited to the king)

The Jezebel Spirit is not gender specific

- In this story it is female
- It requires a weak person out front
- Control behind the scenes

Applications for today

- “The controlling idol of the American Church is ‘friendships’ — caring more about maintaining ‘friendships’ at superficial levels than maintaining ‘friends’ at a spiritual level.”
- Must find empowerment from God to know how to rebuke a brother in love
- What should the leaders at the village have done? Told the king? Jezebel might have killed them.
- God speaks to Elijah to tell Naboth that the dogs will lick his blood.
- God sees it all. God will deal with it.
- Nothing we think we do anonymously is hidden from God.
- Writing the pastor anonymously is cowardly.
- God knows who is spreading false accusations on the internet.
- We have to find the empowerment and liberty to say, “I love you, I care about you, you cannot do or say those things.”
- Do you love your friend enough to discern that spirit of Jezebel and draw him back from the abyss?
- Being part of the community of faith is tough business for big people — not for sissies.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define a “Jezebel spirit”?
2. What did Dr. Rutland mean when he said, “You cannot project your normalcy on her psychopathy”?
3. Have you known, or do you know anyone with a Jezebel spirit? How do you deal with them?
4. Respond to, “The controlling idol of the American Church is ‘friendships.’”
5. Does this give you an urgency to take action in any or your current relationships?