

## **Biblical Characters: Elijah the Prophet**

*The poor man's vineyard – Elijah's departure – questions and meditations*

“So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” (1 Kings 21:4)

Although Ahab was king, and had many possessions, his greed made him covet the vineyard of Naboth the poor man. Do you always thank God for what He gave you, regardless of *how much*? Or, are you always dissatisfied, and always coveting what others have?

“And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.”” (1 Kings 21:15)

Greed evolved into pre-meditated murder: Ahab thus inherited the vineyard of the man whom he had murdered. A person whose heart is filled with the love of acquisition, develops pride and arrogance, and will stop at nothing for the sake of satisfying his desires and base instincts.

Where did Ahab's greed lead him? Read 1 Kings 21:17 – 26, and complete the following verses:

- “Take heed and beware.....” (Luke 12:15)
- “Let your conduct be without covetousness....” (Hebrews 13:5)
- “in everything give thanks;....” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.” (1 Kings 21:27) God is all-compassionate, and is willing to accept any sinner, however grave his sins may be, provided he offers true repentance before Him. (1 Kings 21:29)

Do you listen to Satan's voice which tells you that God cannot possibly accept you because your sins are too numerous and weighty? Or, do you put your absolute trust in God's mercies, and experience the joy of forgiveness through approaching Him in sincere repentance, confessing and partaking of the holy communion? Express your feelings.

“But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, “Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron?””....” (2 Kings 1:3) In all situations where God was displeased with people's behaviour, He used Elijah as His voice to proclaim that displeasure. In this particular instance, God used Elijah to announce His displeasure at Samaria's king's seeking counsel of the idols.

Would you like to be the voice through which God proclaims the truth? How would this be realized? Will you continue to reproach all those who act erroneously, or will you let your actions bear silent witness to your message?

“Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.” (2 Kings 2:11) No other scenario was suitable for Elijah’s ascension to heaven; this prophet’s heart burned with his love for God, and with his zeal to reveal the truth. When God raised him to heaven, He took him in a fiery chariot, matching his fiery heart.

Elijah the prophet and John the Baptist had similar personalities. State those similarities.

**Prayer:**

“My God, grant that I have my fill of You, so that I may continually feel in Your presence, and so that I may have a fiery heart which loves you faithfully and sincerely, and which witnesses for you.”