



January 2-3, 2016

Leftovers, Again Sustaining a Life of Faith

Elijah, Ahab & Jezebel

I. Ahab's Victories

1 Kings 20:31-34 (NIV®)

³¹ His officials said to him, "Look, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful. Let us go to the king of Israel with sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads. Perhaps he will spare your life." . . . When Ben-Hadad came out, Ahab had him come up into his chariot. ³⁴ "I will return the cities my father took from your father," Ben-Hadad offered. "You may set up your own market areas in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria." [Ahab said,] "On the basis of a treaty I will set you free." So he made a treaty with him, and let him go.

A. God's Perspective

1 Kings 20:35-43 (NIV®)

³⁵ By the word of the LORD one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion, "Strike me with your weapon," but the man refused. ³⁶ So the prophet said, "**Because you have not obeyed the LORD**, as soon as you leave me a lion will kill you." And after the man went away, a lion found him and killed him. ³⁷ **The prophet found another man** and said, "Strike me, please." So the man struck him and wounded him. ³⁸ Then the prophet went and stood by the road waiting for the king. He disguised himself with his headband down over his eyes. ³⁹ As the king passed by, the prophet called out to him, "Your servant went into the thick of the battle, and someone came to me with a captive and said, 'Guard this man. If he is missing, it will be your life for his life, or you must pay a talent of silver!'" ⁴⁰ While your servant was busy here and there, the man disappeared." "That is your sentence," the king of Israel said. "You have pronounced it yourself." ⁴¹ Then the prophet quickly removed the headband from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. ⁴² He said to the king, "**This is what the LORD says: 'You have set free a man I had determined should die. Therefore it is your life for his life, your people for his people.'**" ⁴³ Sullen and angry, the king of Israel went to his palace in Samaria.

1. Obedience

Micah 6:8 (NIV®)

⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

2. Fear of the Lord

3. Creator & Creation

Isaiah 45:9 (NASB®)

⁹ "Woe to *the one* who quarrels with his Maker— An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?' Or the thing you are making *say*, 'He has no hands'?

B. Naboth and His Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1-7 (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."**

1 Kings 21:17-20 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ¹⁸ "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it." ¹⁹ Say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood--yes, yours!'" ²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "So you have found me, my enemy!" "I have found you," he answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD.

1. Judge of all the earth---

Genesis 18:25 (NIV®)

²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! **Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?**"

John 5:22 (NIV®)

²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son...

1 Kings 21:23-29 (NIV®)

²³ "And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' ²⁴ "Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country." ²⁵ (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.) ²⁶ He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.) ²⁷ **When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around weekly.** ²⁸ **Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite:** ²⁹ "Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

2. Power of Repentance

1 John 1:8-9 (NIV®)

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:7 (NIV®)

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

- a. Acknowledgement
- b. Turning away
- c. Fellowship
- d. Walking in light

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

I come before You today in humility. You are the creator and I am the created. You are righteous in all Your judgments. I choose Your way for my life. I turn away from all ungodliness; I yield my entire life to You. Forgive me of my stubborn rebellion and sin. I want to honor You with the strength of my days. Cleanse me and I will be clean. Deliver me and I will know the freedom of my God. You are my strong tower; You are my hope; in You my future is secure and my life has promise. In Jesus name, amen.

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