

Message Notes

“Our Neighbor, Naboth”

1 Kings 21:1-16 (ESV)

April 2, 2017

Naboth, We Share the Same Trials

◆ There Is a Freedom We Honor

“A man was thrust into a situation where he had to choose between obeying his God and pleasing the state. He chose his God and was murdered by his government.”

(Robert Ellsworth)

◆ Encouraged Through Baptist Persecution

◆ Enshrined By Baptist Persuasion

“No man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever . . . nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion.”

(Virginia Statute for Establishing Religious Freedom 1786)

◆ There Is a Fight We Face

◆ National Examples: Clergy, Colleges, Commerce

◆ One Profession’s Exclusion?

◆ Proposed Legislation

“. . . protecting counselors from facilitating objectionable behavior.”

◆ Punished Practitioners

“. . . the ban on discrimination against clients based on their religion 1) does not require a Muslim counselor to tell a Jewish client that his religious beliefs are correct if the conversation takes a turn in that direction and 2) does not require an atheist counselor to tell a person of faith that there is a God if the client is wrestling with faith-based issues.”

(Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals)

◆ There Is a Faith We Hold

◆ With Conviction: Whose Way?

◆ Ahab – “Me First”

◆ Naboth – “God First”

◆ With Company – Whose Witness?

◆ Moses

◆ Daniel

◆ Early Church

◆ There Are Facts That Happened

◆ Ahab’s Covetousness

Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And after this Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.”

(1 Kings 21:1-2)

◆ **Naboth's Conviction**

But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." (1 Kings 21:3)

◆ **Not Business Opportunity . . .**

◆ **But Biblical Obedience**

"The inheritance of the people of Israel shall not be transferred from one tribe to another, for every one of the people of Israel shall hold on to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers." (Numbers 36:7)

◆ **To Protect the Poor**

◆ **To Fulfill the Promise**

◆ **Redeem**

◆ **Inherit**

◆ **Jezebel's Crime**

"If Ahab was a wicked toad squatting on the throne of Israel, then Jezebel was an evil snake coiled around the throne." (Ray Pritchard)

And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food. . . . And Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." (1 Kings 21:4, 7)

◆ **One Pouted**

◆ **One Plotted (1 Kings 21:11-13)**

Naboth, We Have a Safer Treasure

◆ **Expect Constant Conflict**

◆ **Experience Complete Confidence**

◆ **Helped By Your Practice**

◆ **Hope in His Promise**

◆ **Shown Through Israel**

◆ **Secured Through Christ**

"So many in our own day have no inheritance, treasure or possession that transcends the grave. Lives are poured out on the altar of materialism, even though no one has ever seen an armored truck following the hearse in a funeral procession." (Raymond Dillard)

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

(1 Peter 1:3b-4)