I Kings 21

Review…

- **I Kings 20 – Obey the Lord…**
  - King Ben-Hadad of Syria gathered an army to attack Israel…
    - The king then besieged Ahab and the city of Samaria – sending Ahab a message…
    - All your wealth is mine and the best of your wives and children to by my slaves!
    - When Ahab agreed to his demands – Ben-Hadad demanded more – so Ahab refused
  - A Prophet came to the King – do you see the great army that is about to attack you…
    - God would deliver them to Ahab – so the king would know God is the Lord!
    - Ben-Hadad was in his tent with 32 kings – getting drunk at noontime…
    - So when Israel attacked – the leaderless army of Syria was easily defeated!
  - The servants of Be-Hadad had superstitious reasons for their defeat…
    - The God of Israel was a God of the hills – that is why Israel won the battle…
    - But if they fought the battle in the pains – they would surely defeat Israel!
    - A man of God came to Ahab – and told him God would give Israel the victory…
    - So God could show the Syrians He was the God of the whole world!
    - When the battle began the little army of Israel – killed 100,000 Syrian solders!
    - But Ahab spared the life of Ben-Hadad disobeying the command of God!

Never enough… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Ahab wanted to buy a vineyard… vs. 1-4** Read: I Kings 21:1-4
  - 1st – Ahab had a palace in the city of Jezreel (*valley of Megiddo*)… vs. 1-2
    - Very near to the palace was a vineyard owned by a man named Naboth (*fruit*)…
      - Since it was so close to his palace – Ahab wanted it to make a vegetable garden…
      - He offered an exchange – the king would give him a nicer vineyard…
      - Or he was also willing to purchase the vineyard at whatever price Naboth asked…
    - It was obvious Ahab did not need this vineyard…
      - He already had plenty of land he could make into his garden – he was king after all…
      - And certainly he did not need it for a business – Ahab already had plenty of money…
      - So it was not a need – this was simply a whim / a want of the king…
      - But God promises to provide for all of our needs - not necessarily our wants…
      - Therefore if we do not have it – we must not need it!

- **James 4:3** - "When you ask, you do not get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."

- 2nd – Naboth refused to sell Ahab the vineyard… vs. 3
  - What Ahab was asking was not allowed by the Law of God…
    - Ahab wanted Naboth to sell the land permanently to him – not just rent the land…
    - According to the Law the Land God gave to your family was never to be sold…
    - **Leviticus 25:23** – "The land must never be sold on a permanent basis because it really belongs to me."
    - The law allowed you to 'rent' the Land – but it had to be returned on the Jubilee…
    - **Leviticus 25:15** – "When you buy land from your neighbor… the seller will charge you only for the crop years left until the next Year of Jubilee."
  - That is why Naboth told Ahab – God forbid I should give my inheritance to you…
    - Naboth was not disrespecting the king – he was obeying the Law of God!
    - I am sure the money of the king was very tempting – but Naboth wisely refused!
    - Money can be a huge temptation to want to disobey the Word of God…
    - Whether we are too busy working – to be able to attend a Bible study…
    - Or being a part of a 'shady deal' – trying to make an extra peso…
    - We never win in the end when we try to get rich disobeying God…
    - Blessing only come WHEN we choose to obey the Word of God!
- 3rd - Ahab went home angry… vs. 4
  - He refused to eat – and went to bed with his face to the wall – he had a 'maoy'!
  - He was king of Israel – had more wealth and property than anyone…
  - But in the end the only thing he wanted was the one thing he could not have!
  - Funny how we are never happy with what we have – we want always more…
  - We want nicer clothes – rather than being thankful for clothes...
  - We want a better job – rather than being thankful for a job...
  - But when we focus on what we do not have – we will have an empty miserable life…
  - Because we end up with lots of 'utang' – with no way to pay it back…
  - Because we gamble away our money – then have nothing left for food…
  - Because we compromise our morals to get an extra peso – then cannot sleep at night…
  - All because we thought we needed something more – we wanted what we did not have!
  - **I Timothy 6:8** – "If we have enough food and clothing, let us be content."

- **2ND – TAKING WHAT IT NOT YOURS… VS. 5-16** READ: I KINGS 21:5-16
  - 1st – Jezebel came to see why king Ahab was so upset… vs. 5-7
    - So Ahab told her how Naboth had refused to sell his vineyard to him…
      - Jezebel rebuked him – you are the King of Israel – you can take whatever you want!
      - She told Ahab to get up and eat – she would get the vineyard for him…
      - Ahab knew full well that meant Jezebel had evil in mind – but he did not stop her…
      - He did not care how she did it - so long as he got what he wanted!
    - When you really want something – you will do anything to get it…
      - People who end up in prison – know what they are doing is wrong…
      - But they are so blinded by their desire for money / wealth…
      - They are willing to take any risk in their pursuit of their greed!
      - That is why envy / coveting is so dangerous – it takes our eyes off of God…
      - In fact it can make us bitter towards God – like He is holding out on us!
      - So we walk away from the Lord – and run into sin in our effort to get what we want!
      - **James 3:16** – "Where envy and self–seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."
  - 2nd – Jezebel wrote letters to the leaders of Jezreel… vs. 8-14
    - She signed them with the 'seal of the king' – so they had the authority of the King…
      - There was to be a fast – all of the people of the city were to attend…
      - The reason for the fast was to find out who had 'blasphemed the name of God'…
      - Naboth was placed in a special seat – signifying he was the guilty party…
      - Then a couple of 'tamby' were hired to make false accusations against him!
    - They accused Naboth of worshiping false gods – **Deuteronomy 17:2**
      - As a result he was taken outside and stoned to death for his 'crime'…
      - Not only Naboth – but also his whole family was put to death – **II Kings 9:26**
      - They were included in the 'crime' – to make sure they could not inherit the land!
    - It was a cruel twist by Jezebel - she was actually guilty of worshiping false gods…
      - Yet she came off as 'godly' for punishing Naboth for pagan worship…
      - When in truth he was faithful to God – and executed for a crime he did not commit!
      - When we see wicked people prosper – especially at the expense of good people…
      - We can be left to wonder if God even sees – God where is justice…
      - But do not be mistaken – God knows – and a day of reckoning will come!
      - **Deuteronomy 32:35** – "I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny will overtake them."
  - 3rd – When Jezebel got word Naboth was dead… vs. 15-16
    - She went to Ahab and told him he could now take the vineyard he wanted…
      - Without any question – Ahab went and claimed Naboth's vineyard as his own!
      - I am sure he thought the vineyard would make him happy…
      - But because of HOW he got the vineyard – his happiness would be short lived!

- When we settle for the way of the world – we always come up with 2nd best…
  - What we get never seems to be as quite nice as what we wanted…
  - Whether clothes – job – friend – its never as nice as what we imagined…
  - Because we are not waiting for God's best – we took the world's answer…
  - The result is always bitter – a short lived happiness quickly replaced by sorrow!

- **3RD – THE REBUKE FROM ELIJAH… VS. 17-29** READ: I KINGS 21:17-29
  - 1st – God commanded Elijah to go and confront king Ahab… vs. 17-19
    - God told Elijah that Ahab was in the vineyard of Naboth (*it was not Ahab's vineyard*)…
    - Elijah was to tell Ahab – was it not enough to murder Naboth – must you rob him too!
    - Because Ahab had done this – Ahab would die – and the dogs would lick up his blood!
    - **Proverbs 1:19**- "The fate of all who are greedy… it robs them of life."
    - People strive for money and prosperity in life – but in the end is costs them their life…
    - Because you waste you life seeking after things that have no eternal value…
    - And what good will money / or fancy things do you on the Day of Judgment!
  - 2nd – Ahab greeted Elijah – 'My enemy has found me!'… vs. 20-26
    - Ahab knew he had sinned – he knew Elijah was there to confront / help him…
      - But Elijah seemed to be his enemy – because he had sold himself into sin!
      - Sin can seem to be enjoyable - but it sucks us in and we are trapped!
      - In the end we find we are in bondage to sin - morally and spiritually bankrupt!
      - **John 8:34** - "I say unto you he that commits sin is the slave of sin…"
      - And our sin end up keeping us from God – it makes God seem like our enemy!
    - God was going to wipe out Ahab – and all of his descendants because of his sin…
      - Just as God had done to the families of Jeroboam and Baasha…
      - And as for Jezebel his wife – the dogs would eat her body in the streets…
      - Fulfilled in **II Kings 9:26** – because no one claimed her body – it was left to rot!
      - God made Ahab King of Israel – but sin would completely destroy his life!
      - God has amazing plans for our lives – beyond anything we could imagine…
      - But we have the power to undo that plan – we can stop the blessing of God…
      - If we choose to rebel – if we insist on going our own way – God will let us…
      - And rather than the blessings of God – we will end up with the sorrow of sin!
    - There was no king like Ahab – so completely sold to what was evil…
      - Because of the influence of Jezebel - leading him to worship false idols…
      - Following the practices of the nations God had driven out of the Land before Israel!
      - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "Bad company corrupts good character."
      - God warns us to be careful whom we spend time with – who our friends are...
      - If we 'hang out' with the wrong crowd - we are going to be negatively influenced...

- Be very careful where you allow yourself to go - who you are identified with...
- Choose VERY wisely whom you spend time with - we will become just like them!

- 3rd – The repentance of Ahab… vs. 27-29
  - When Ahab heard the message – he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth…
    - He fasted – and even slept in the sackcloth – in deep morning over his sin…
    - Because he humbled himself God sent another message to Elijah…
    - God would not do what He had promised during Ahab's lifetime…
    - Instead the destruction of his family would happen to his sons
  - Ahab was not a nice man – he was a murderer and a thief…
    - Yet more is written about him than most any other king of Israel…
    - Because for all his evil – in the end he repented and turned back to the Lord!
    - Not just saying sorry – but truly showing a repentant heart!
    - No one like consequences - no one wants to face the results of their sin...
    - No child about to be punished - will not be quick to say 'I am sorry'...
  - But being sorry - does not always mean we have repented...
    - If we are just sorry we got caught – sorry because of our consequences...
    - Then we are not sorry for what we did – and given the chance we might do it again...
    - Even if feel guilty – beat ourselves thinking 'how could I have done that'...
    - Many people deal with their burden of guilt by trying to forget it...
    - They drown themselves in alcohol / or keep themselves busy...
    - But the moment they stop / become sober - the guilt and despairs return...
    - But we do not change - we do not turn from our sinful ways to Jesus...
    - Judas 'regretted' betraying Jesus - he was sorry for what he had done...
    - He tried to argue with the chief priests - but they could not forgive him...
    - He tried to cast the 30 silver coins on the floor - but it did not undo his sin...
    - He did not repent - he did not come back to Jesus - instead he hung himself...
    - The sorrow/regret of the world leads to death - because we do not run to Jesus!
    - **II Corinthians 7:10** – "Sorrow without repentance… results in death."
  - When we truly repent - turn to Jesus – there is hope for even the greatest sinner!
    - **I John 1:9** – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
    - If we confess our sin - any sin - Jesus will forgive us and make us clean again!
    - Godly repentance brings freedom - we are not longer bound by our past mistakes...
    - We are able to move beyond our failures - we begin to grow again in Christ!