

NABOTH'S VINEYARD – Drama Script

1 Kings Chapter 21

Cast: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Narrator 4, Naboth, Ahab, Jezebel, Elijah

NARRATOR 1: King Ahab was spending the summer in his palace at Jezreel. Here, he spent many a day wandering through the gardens and planning on what he would do next. Directly next door to the king's garden was a piece of land belonging to a man called Naboth. He had turned it into a place where he grew grape vines, and had worked hard to hollow out a trough where he crushed the rich grapes to make wine.

NARRATOR 2: Ahab had wanted to add Naboth's land to his for a while. He wanted to turn it into a vegetable garden. With this in mind, he sent for Naboth and offered to give him another piece of land, or pay Naboth for his. However, much to King Ahab's surprise, Naboth shook his head, claiming that when a man called Joshua, on God's business divided the land amongst Naboth's ancestors, it was handed down to him, and he must leave it to his sons. Naboth stated that God had given him this land and that God forbids him to sell it, no matter how much he was offered.

AHAB: 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.

NABOTH: The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers, so I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.

NARRATOR 3: King Ahab was angry and disappointed. So much so, that when the servants announced that dinner was ready, he said he didn't want any. He sulked and lay on his bed, facing the wall. It was at this point that Queen Jezebel came looking for him.

JEZEBEL: Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?

AHAB: Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it'. And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard

JEZEBEL: 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.

NARRATOR 4: Jezebel thought hard, and decided that if Naboth would not hand over his and, then she must get rid of him and his family. That is the way she figured to give the king what he wanted.

NARRATOR 1: Jezebel then commenced writing to the most important people in Jezreel, She signed it using the king's name, and put his royal seal on it. "Announce a public holiday," she wrote "and call all the people together" It was at this point that her evil plan became known. "See that Naboth is there and put him in a special seat. Then pay a couple of rogues to say that they have heard Naboth calling out curses against God and against the king. Take him to court for these things, and when he is found guilty, kill him."

NARRATOR 2: Unfortunately the city council lived in fear of the Queen, and obeyed her orders. A message arrived at the palace that Naboth and his sons were dead. Jezebel reported this to Ahab. "You can have your land, Naboth is dead.

NARRATOR 3: Ahab took possession of the land at once, but God sent a man named Elijah to speak to the king. They were old enemies.

LORD: Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, "Have you killed and also taken possession?"' And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood.

AHAB: Have you found me, O my enemy?

ELIJAH: I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord. Behold, I will bring disaster upon you. I will utterly burn you up, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin. And of Jezebel the Lord also said, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.' Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat.

NARRATOR 4: After Elijah had left, Ahab was ashamed and knew that what he and Jezebel had done was wrong. He took off his fine clothes and refused to eat the palace food. He went around looking gloomy and sad. He wanted to show how sorry he was. God noticed how Ahab was behaving and told Elijah that Ahab seemed to be sorry. God decided that Ahab and his family were not suitable to be kings of Israel.

NARRATOR 1: Ahab's greed had caused the death of Naboth and his family. Ahab put on an unhappy face, and God was sad also.

NARRATOR 2: Remember, God will always supply for us what we need, which can be different to what we want! I believe there is a simple way to fight greed and put a smile on God's heart. Be thankful for what you have, thank God for it. Then you will be happy, and so will others around you.