

**Welcome:**

Have you ever envied anyone? Why?

Word:

Today we have a classic tale of envy, greed and wickedness.

Read 1 Kings 21:1-21a

- 1 Why does Ahab want the vineyard? (vv1-3)
- 2 Why does Naboth refuse his king this request? (See Lev 25:23-28 & Nu 36:7)
- 3 Would you have refused the king?
- 3 What does Ahab's reaction reveal about him? (v4)
- 4 What does Jezebel's solution reveal about her and her relationship with Ahab? (vv8-10)
- 5 What kind of governors are the elders?
- 6 How seriously do they view capital punishment? (vv11-13)
- 7 Was Naboth naive?
- 8 What does Jezebel's scheme reveal about the courts and justice?
- 9 How can Ahab simply take a dead man's land?
- 10 Who cuts short Ahab's sense of conquest? (vv17-22)
- 11 What is the surprise ending? (v27)
- 12 What impression do you get of Ahab's mental state?

Now comes the really difficult bit as we are supposed to come under the authority of scripture and apply it to ourselves, so:

- A. In what subtle ways may your life resemble Ahab or Jezebel? (Do you love things or use people or throw your weight around?) It might be better to ponder this question yourself rather than try to share your answer with others?
- B. How does God bring forgiveness today?
- C. Have you ever felt abused? (As Naboth was) and how did you respond?
- D. Do you trust our judicial system

Witness:

In our Word section we heard about people taking things off others.

In many places the local church is perceived as a local group that are always asking for money.

Is there anything you can think of that you (and the church) can give to your neighbours?

Is there anything practical you can do as a group?

Worship:

In our Word section we heard about people taking things off others.

Have you got anything you would you like to Give to God? This can be almost anything. Your hands, your feet, your family, your home, your problems!