

BIBLE STORY: AHAB COVETS NABOTH'S VINEYARD

1 Kings 21:1-15

Central Thoughts

- “To Covet” is to desire and insist upon having someone or something that God has not given you.
- Covetousness leads to idolatry which makes a god out of these things that are coveted.
- Coveting leads to sin against all God’s commandments.
- Jesus kept the ninth and tenth commandments. He did not covet anyone or anything.
- Jesus loved and trusted in His heavenly Father and was willing to sacrifice everything that belonged to Him so that we could be saved from our sin.

Discussion Questions

What did King Ahab want?

The vineyard of Naboth

Why did Naboth not want to sell King Ahab his vineyard?

It was part of his father’s inheritance and he did not want to dishonor his father who had given the vineyard to him.

What do we learn about King Ahab when he became so upset that Naboth would not sell him the vineyard?

He coveted the vineyard and he had made an idol out of it.

What does Queen Jezebel scheme to do to get Naboth’s vineyard for King Ahab?

She “schemes” to get Naboth’s Vineyard by arranging false witnesses to lie about Naboth that he had committed blasphemy against God and the king.

Why does Queen Jezebel do these things?

She was arrogant and proud. She made a god out of herself and insisted that she and King Ahab should have whatever they wanted.

Why does King Ahab go along with Jezebel’s plan?

The same sins of covetousness were in his heart also.

What commandments did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel break?

The first, second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth.

What commandment is always broken whenever we sin?

The first commandment, not trusting in God is behind every sin that person commits.

What did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel deserve because of their sin?

God’s wrath and punishment, temporal and eternal death.

What does God’s Law call us to do when we learn of our sins?

We are called to repentance, to confess our sins and to flee to our Lord Jesus for forgiveness and strength to live as His children.

What has Jesus done for us to rescue us from the covetousness of our own heart.

He lived faithfully and without sin. He did not covet anything that the Father had not given Him. He trusted in His heavenly Father above all things, and He sacrificed Himself and everything that He had upon the cross so that we could be saved and have new life with God.

Meditation on the Bible Story

Naboth refused to sell his vineyard because it was part of his father’s inheritance. When Ahab continued to covet Naboth’s vineyard, he began to do what the Ninth commandment forbids. With Jezebel his wife, he “schemed to get his neighbor’s inheritance or house,” and in Jezebel’s plan, Naboth was falsely accused of sinning against God for which he was put to death, so that Ahab could seize Naboth’s vineyard “in a way that only appeared right.”

Covetousness leads to selfishness, greed, and pride. Out of the covetousness of his heart, Ahab and Jezebel

- Broke the first commandment by not trusting in God and what He had given.
- Broke the second commandment by lying and deceiving by God’s name.
- Broke the third commandment by sinning against God’s Word.
- Broke the fourth commandment by misusing the power and authority God had given them as civil rulers
- Broke the fifth commandment by murdering Naboth
- Broke the seventh commandment by stealing Naboth’s vineyard.
- Broke the eighth commandment by false testimony against Naboth.

All of these sins came out of the sin of Coveting in Naboth's heart. To covet something or someone that God has not given you is just as much a sin as breaking any of the Ten Commandments. Coveting also leads to the breaking of all God's commandments as we "scheme to get" something that doesn't belong to us (9th Commandment) or as we "entice away from our neighbor his wife, workers, or animals" and fail to "urge them to do their duty."

When we are tempted to covet something that doesn't belong to us, God's Word calls us to confess the sin of covetousness and to receive His help and strength through God's forgiveness in Jesus.

Jesus did not covet anything or anyone. He lived by faith in what His heavenly Father had given Him. He used His life and everything that He was given in service to us. He willingly died for our sins to save us from covetousness and all sins against the Ten Commandments. Jesus forgiveness and love for us saves us from our sins and strengthens us to love others so that we are of "help and service to our neighbor" and "urge our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals to stay and do their duty."

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, rescue us from the sins of Ahab and Jezebel who coveted Naboth's Vineyard. Teach us to be content with whatever you have given us and to live by faith in Jesus and in Your promise to provide us with everything that we truly need to support throughout our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer Against the love of money

Almighty God, heavenly Father, You have called us to be Your children and heirs of Your gracious promises in Christ Jesus. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may forsake all covetous desires and love of riches. Deliver us from scheming to get things that don't belong us that we may seek the kingdom of Your Son and trust in His forgiveness and love and so find blessedness and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NINTH & TENTH COMMANDMENTS

(See Catechism or Congregation at Prayer for the Week)

Prayers on the Ninth Commandment

Gracious Lord, forgive us for coveting the things You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, You teach us in the Ninth Commandment that we should not make an idol out of the things that belong to others, but that we should help and be of serve to our neighbor in keeping what belongs to him. You have called us in love to look out for and protect all the temporal gifts that belong to others. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of covetous desire and envy, for insisting upon having things that you have not given us, for being preoccupied with finding ways to get more and more for ourselves, and for making plans to obtain things from others by claiming that we have a right to them and they do not. Guard the thoughts and desires of our hearts. Rescue us from every form of greed and selfishness. Teach us to love our neighbor by being of service to him in protecting what You have given him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Tenth Commandment

Gracious Lord forgive us for coveting a spouse, worker, or relationship with someone that You have not given us and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, in the Tenth Commandment You teach us that our God-given relationships with others are sacred and that they are to be honored and protected. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for coveting relationships with others that You have not given us, for every form of lust and self-centered desire, for wanting another person's spouse, for making a god out of people, for loving others more than we love You, and for trying to obtain the loyalty and affection of others that rightly belongs to our neighbor. Help us to be content with the relationships that You have given us. Grant us the gift of your grace and mercy in Jesus, so that in every way we encourage, support, and help our neighbors to maintain their God-given relationships in marriage, family, and the workplace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Ahab Covets Naboth's Vineyard
1 Kings 21:1-16