



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Discovery Digs Series, Lesson 6

Lesson Title: Murder For a Vineyard

Take Home Point: Don't let greed carry you away.

Warm-Up:

By the early 1900s, steel magnate John Rockefeller was considered one of the wealthiest and most powerful businessmen in the world. During an interview he was asked, "You are rich beyond anyone's dreams. How much is enough?" Rockefeller replied, "Just a little bit more." In those five words he succinctly articulated the mindset of the discontented and greedy. Whatever he had was not enough. And it wasn't even enough for Rockefeller to have what he wanted; he did not want anyone else to have anything. His greed carried him away to turn a blind eye to justice, doing right, and true contentment. He died a bitter hard-hearted man, still looking for an edge in money and power over anyone and everyone else.

Read: 1 Kings 21; Philippians 4:11b-13

Observation (What happened?):

What was the King of Israel's response to Naboth rejecting his offer to exchange vineyards?

In verse 20, what does Elijah say Ahab did to himself in pursuing evil?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Naboth's response to Ahab differ from the town elders' response to Jezebel?

How do you know King Ahab's repentance was genuine?

Insight:

Ahab desired that vineyard so much that he was willing to do evil to get it. That Jezebel actually performed the deed simply made her an accomplice. Ahab knew what she would do and allowed her to do it. He got carried away by his greed. He put his sinful, selfish desires ahead of everything else, including the life of Naboth. Like Ahab, our view of what we want and what others have reflects our view of the value of other people. God is not really concerned with ownership; after all, we are simply stewards of what he has given us. What he is concerned with is our heart. As Paul said, we are to be content with what God gives. That does not mean we can't try to gain something through honest labor, but it's our desires and what we do with what we have that matters. Are we content with what God has given? Do we seek gain so we can be comfortable even while others suffer? Do we believe whatever we have is ours and not God's? Do we put integrity and holiness ahead of temporal gain? These are the eternal questions that matter as God seeks to transform our lives in a greedy world.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Do you want something so much that you consider doing something you know is wrong to get it? What are you going to do about your desire?

Make a list of everything God has given you. Pray for his contentment in your circumstances.

Lesson 6