

## **A VINEYARD THEFT AND MURDER**

### **1 Kings 21:1-29**

The Crime: Naboth is dead, his vineyard stolen.

The Investigation: When vineyard owner Naboth heeds the Lord's instruction and refuses to sell his vineyard to king Ahab, Ahab's wife Jezebel conspires to have Naboth murdered. When Ahab learns of Naboth's death, he takes possession of the vineyard.

☐ **Monday: Read 1 Kings 21:1-3.**

Have you ever had to say "no" to something that felt like a compromise of your faith or values? What gives you the courage to stand firm?

☐ **Tuesday: Read 1 Kings 21:4-6.**

Where is it easy for entitlement to creep into life—thinking we deserve something simply because we want it, or that something belongs to us instead of God?

☐ **Wednesday: Read 1 Kings 21:7-16.**

What do you do when you witness injustice gaining ground in your community, workplace, or world? What can keep you from speaking up?

☐ **Thursday: Read 1 Kings 21:17-26.**

Why is it so difficult to speak hard truths—especially to people in power or influence? When have you needed to speak truth in the presence of injustice or suffering?

☐ **Friday: Read 1 Kings 21:27-29.**

Do you believe God has mercy even when a sin is serious and destructive? What gives you hope that repentance still matters?

☐ **Saturday: Read Romans 12:19.**

When injustice goes unpunished or unresolved, how do you hold onto faith that God's justice will prevail?

The Verdict: Greed and power are a dangerous combination. When unchecked, they lead to injustice, hurt, pain, and even death. Yet injustice does not have the last word. When God's prophet Elijah hears the story of Naboth, he confronts Ahab with his crime. Ahab repents, and in the end God's judgment will prevail, as Jezebel will be devoured by dogs.

**The Lesson: Beware of letting envy and greed compromise your integrity. Trust in God's ultimate justice.**