

# Hang on to your Godly Inheritance

## Introduction

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This week, Elder Kempton Rodney took us through 1 Kings 21:1-15 and reminded us to hang on to our Godly inheritance. In the scripture, we are told that King Ahab wanted a piece of land that was located close to his second palace, in the city of Jezreel, for a vegetable garden. Yet Naboth, the vineyard's owner, refused to sell the land, for it was the "inheritance of his fathers" (1 Kings 21:1–3). Back in Lev. 25:23-28 and Num 36:7-9, the scripture lays out the Mosaic Law which prohibited selling one's family land except to escape poverty. This means that Ahab was not only trying to get Naboth to give up his inheritance, he also was trying to get him to break with his integrity. When you think about it, the pressure on Naboth must have been enormous. Not only had he been approached by the King himself, but he was made an offer for a better piece of property and to 'name his price'. He had something that the richest and most powerful man in his world wanted very badly, he was in a position to make a huge profit, set his family up for generations to come, and never again lack for anything. But nowhere in scripture do we see that Naboth even considered giving up his inheritance. In fact, he responds to Ahab in 1 Kings 21:3, saying "The Lord forbids that I should give thee my inheritance". He recognized that if God wanted him to keep it, there was something about that inheritance that no amount of money, influence or power could account for.

So often, we lose sight of the fact, that God promises He will not withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11). What God has given us has more value than the things of this world. Your inheritance or gift may seem small to you, but there are many people who would give a lot to have what you have. Your small thing paired with God's blessing is a great thing. The scripture alludes to this when it says in 1 Timothy that "...godliness with contentment is great gain". The New Living Translation clarifies this further by saying "true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth". Funnily enough, although Ahab was king and had wealth beyond what most of us will ever experience, he was not content. He saw Naboth's vineyard and felt like he needed to have it in order to be happy. When Naboth refused, Ahab was mad, sullen and he refused to eat...suddenly, this small vineyard was the sole determiner of his happiness.

We live in a world where it is very easy to develop the thinking of Ahab. The type of thinking that starts with, "When I get the vineyard, I will be happy", and overtime develops into "I cannot possibly be happy or fulfilled unless that vineyard is mine". You may not relate this to a vineyard, but in your life this thinking may be, "I can't be happy



until I get the job; or the right wage; or the house; or the spouse; or the \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)". The truth is God has given you everything that you need. And if we put more energy into recognising how precious what we have is, rather than stressing over what we don't have, we would live much more fulfilled lives.

What has God given you? What is your unique gift? What have you been blessed with? The gifts of God are without repentance. He never regrets what He has given you. Wow! what an awesome truth.

## Getting Started

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Read **1 Kings 21:1-15; Leviticus 25:23-28; Numbers 36:7-9**

1. Why did King Ahab want Naboth's vineyard?
2. What was the basis for Naboth's refusal to sell his land to King Ahab?
3. Why do you think it was specified in the law not to sell the inheritance of your fathers? What is the significance of this legal requirement?

## Let's Get Personal

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1. What does the inheritance of your fathers represent in your own life? What is the gift that God has given to you? Write it down.
2. Think about a time when you, like Ahab allowed something that you didn't have to be the determiner of your happiness. What was that thing? How will you prevent yourself from falling into this trap of the enemy again? What will you do the next time you find yourself preoccupied with what is missing rather than focused on what you have?

## Take The Next Step

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Throughout the week, take one opportunity everyday to use your gift to bless someone else. If you are an encourager, give a stranger a compliment or call someone and remind them that they are loved. If you are a gifted writer, send someone an email, or write an encouraging Facebook post. Just do something each day to share your gift with the world!