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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1537 ~ Ahab steals Naboth's Vineyard.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Have you ever wished you could do a certain job in the church but it's already being done by someone else? You yourself don't have the time or energy to do the job, or even the background experience or the right skills. But you still think you could do a better job than the person actually doing it. Coveting or wanting what someone else has makes us critical and fault-finding, rather than being supportive and encouraging towards God's appointed servants.

At a children's birthday party, it came time to serve the cake. A little boy called out, "I want the biggest piece!"

His mother quickly scolded him. "It's not polite to ask for the biggest piece."

The little boy looked at her in confusion and asked, "Well, how do you get it?"

That is the same question King Ahab wanted to find an answer to in today's *Bible Adventure*. He had a beautiful new palace built in Jezreel but soon after moving into it, he showed great discontentment.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

King Ahab wanted his own way and he didn't care how he got it. Ahab wanted Naboth's land which was an inheritance from Naboth's tribal ancestors. The rules and regulations given to Moses and taught to the Israelites in the Bible book of Numbers, Chapter 36, made it quite clear that the land ownership was not to be passed between one tribe and another.

Just when Ahab thought he would never find away around this rule and was sulking in his bedroom, in came Queen Jezebel and told him she would get him the land. She had a plan that broke many of God's commandments to succeed, and Ahab let her lead him into terrible wrongdoing: Ahab coveted Naboth's possession; together, Jezebel and Ahab put material things before God; they lied and paid to have false testimony brought against Naboth, an innocent man; they murdered Naboth; they stole Naboth's property and then they tried to cover it up.

Of course, Ahab and Jezebel could never have succeeded if the city leaders had refused to obey their orders. Jezebel didn't fear God's name or believe in fasting, but she knew how to use both to get whatever she wanted.

God saw the unfair, cruel death of Naboth. Why, we ask ourselves, did God not intervene in some way to stop this injustice? Naboth, we know, is only one of many people who have been faithful to God until their death. In the last book of the Bible, Revelations, Chapter 2, the Lord Jesus Himself gives this promise: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

These days, so people cannot be unjustly accused of speaking wrong things in the courts of law, those who testify as witnesses must promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Someone else's life and liberty is at risk. If, later, a witness is found to have given false testimony or misled the court by what they said, they can be punished for doing it.

God is a God of justice and He sent Elijah to visit Ahab in the vineyard near his new palace in Jezreel. Just when Ahab thought his happiness was complete, Elijah appeared, delivering God's words of judgment for him, his wife and his family. Ahab amazingly humbled himself before God - not because he felt the burden of his sins but because he feared the terror of death. God delayed His judgment on Ahab but it came just the same. Ahab had sold himself to do evil and his sin mastered him, finally paying its full wages in death and God's curses.

How can people overcome their discontentment? Being discontent is a sin but it is also its own punishment, for it makes people torment themselves in their minds. The Apostle Paul was contented in a prison but Ahab was discontent in a royal palace. True contentment in the heart can only be found in the Lord.

In 1636, amid the darkness of the Thirty-Year War, a German pastor is said to have buried 5000 people from his area in one year, which was an average of 15 a day. His parish was ravaged by war, death and poverty. In spite of these circumstances, he sat down and wrote this table grace for his children.

*Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices;
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices.
Who, from our mother's arms,
Has led us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.*

That pastor knew thanksgiving comes from the love of God, not from outward circumstances.

One of Ahab's character weaknesses was his intense desire to receive approval from other people, and especially from his wife. She dominated him although he was king and he tried very hard to please her, even to the point of worshipping an idol god at a shrine she controlled.

Ahab tried very hard to impress others so they'd like him. He had two palaces, which was even more than Solomon had! Yet sadly, for most of his life, he didn't care if God approved of his behaviour or not.

If you become aware that you are doing things to please and impress others so they'll like you, you may have a problem just like Ahab did. One needs to be aware of the power of peer approval and what other cunning people can do with it. Cunning Jezebel used the knowledge of others' weakness for her own gain. Some parents, too, will withhold their approval of their child's efforts to make them try harder. If the child or student thinks they are putting in their best effort already, they soon become discouraged and feel 'not good enough' in life.

When we do things so that we might get attention and applause for ourselves, we are doing things for the wrong reasons. But how can we overcome this constant desire for approval? Firstly, we have to determine who it is that we want to please the most. Is it ourselves? Or is it the Lord Jesus? If it is self, we're looking at a self-centred person trying to feed the ego. If we want to please the Lord, however, we need to confess our approval seeking from people as a sin and ask the Lord to help us to not compare our person, performance or possessions with what other people have.

Often this process involves no more than keeping our minds fixed on Jesus and occupied with our own work for Him, while at the same time, maintaining an unwillingness to criticize those living and working around us. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 7, the Lord Jesus said: "Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and He will apply to you the same rules you apply to others."

If your conscience is troubling you about the wrong things you've done, confess each one to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to forgive and cleanse you. May you find His Holy Spirit leading you into the very nature of Christ.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Stephanie Hall singing "How Blessed are those Whose Way is Blameless."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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