FAITH IN FEAR
PERSONAL STUDY
Week Seven — "Faith When It's Costly"

PASTOR INTRODUCTION
Here we are at week seven of "Faith in Fear." This time we are going to see what happens when people in positions of power use that power and influence to do something wrong.

Read I Kings 21:1-29.

Ahab wants Naboth's vineyard. On paper, it sounds like a reasonable request. Ahab wants to buy it. However, there is a sticking point. Naboth refuses. And he refuses because the land has been given to his family as an inheritance from the Lord. This makes Ahab angry and then Jezebel steps in. She arranges for Naboth to be falsely accused and killed. Ahab then takes possession of the vineyard.

Talk about an abuse of power!

Now God sends Elijah who goes to Ahab and tells him exactly what God has commanded him to say. A difficult task, for sure, because Ahab wasn't just a next door neighbor, he was the king! Note, also, how Jezebel has already demonstrated what she is willing to do to anyone who gets in her way. So Elijah knows the danger. But he goes anyway in a terrific demonstration of faith.

Faith sometimes means trusting God when we are afraid and cannot see the answer or resolution right in front of us. Sometimes faith means speaking the truth when it would be so much easier to remain silent.

And there will be times when doing what's right will cost us something. It could be our popularity, friendship, opportunity, or simply make our lives that little bit more difficult.

So the temptation might be to ask:

“Why make trouble?” “Why not just keep quiet?”

But Elijah reminds us that being faithful isn’t always a comfortable experience.

So consider this question:

“What does it look like to remain faithful when doing the right thing comes at a personal cost?”

Think about Elijah and think about your own life while you are at it.

Faithfulness does not mean doing what is easy. Faithfulness means trusting God enough to do what is right.

THE RUNDOWN

TEXT I Kings 21:1-29

THEME Remaining faithful when doing what is right comes at a cost. Faithfulness means trusting God enough to do what is right.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

When have I found it difficult to do what I know is right?

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What am I tempted to compromise or give up in order to make life easier? (N.B. Naboth’s unwillingness to to give up the vineyard).

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Where might I be tempted to keep silent when I should speak up?

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Elijah confronted Ahab even though he was king. What does his courage teach me about trusting God when I am hesitant?

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Is there an area of my life where I am more concerned about keeping the peace, fitting in, or avoiding conflict than being faithful to the Lord?

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Prayer Requests

This is not just an opportunity to learn God's Word, but also for us to support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any prayer requests, please reach out at anytime.

Questions

If something comes up that you would like further clarification on, please let me know. I would be happy to help and discuss them with you.