

CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: CRS

TOPIC: THE EFFECTS OF GREED (AHAB AND GEHAZI)

WEEK: 7

TERM: SECOND

CONTENT

1. Ahab seize Naboth's vineyard I kings 21: 1- 2:16
2. The effect of Ahab's greed 1 Kings 21: 17-29
3. Gehazi's greed and its consequences, 2 kings 5: 1-27

AHAB SEIZES NABOTH'S VINEYARD

(I KINGS 21:1-2; 16)

Naboth had a vineyard he inherited beside Ahab the king, son of Omri – who was one of the wicked kings in northern Israel. During the reign of Ahab, the land experienced astronomical increase in victimization, utter disrespect for Yahweh, prominent worship of Baal, Asherah and other foreign gods. Indeed during his reign, apostasy attained its peak.

Ahab asked for possession of Naboth's vineyard in exchange for money or kindness, but Naboth turned the offer down stating he inherited it. This depressed Ahab to the extent he could not eat. His wife **Jezebel** – a **Sidonian** princess and an arch enemy of the worshippers of Yahweh, daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon – promised to get the vineyard for him at all costs.

Jezebel wrote a letter in Ahab's name and sealed it with the King's seal. She sent the letters to the elders and nobles in Jezreel stating, a fast should be proclaimed and Naboth should be set on high among the people with two base men opposite him who would bring a charge of cursing God and the king against him and thereafter be stoned to death. The mission was carried out, as the men did exactly what she wanted. The report got to her and she immediately told Ahab that he can now possess the vineyard Naboth would not give him while alive.

The Effects of Ahab's Greed

(I Kings 21:17-29)

As soon as Ahab heard about Naboth's death, he went to view the vineyard and take possession. God sent Elijah to him immediately to tell him of His judgment. These were:

1. In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, there shall dogs lick yours too;
2. I will bring evil upon you;
3. I will utterly sweep you away;
4. I will cut off from Ahab every male, bound or free in Israel;
5. Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city, the dogs shall eat;
6. Anyone who dies in the open country, the birds of the air shall eat;
7. And of Jezebel, the dogs shall eat her within the bounds of Jezreel.

After hearing these from God through the Prophet, Ahab rent his clothes, put on sackcloth, laid in ashes and fasted. He humbled himself before God.

All these showed signs of repentance and God had mercy on him averting all his judgment on him but postponed it till the time of his children. However, Ahab and Jezebel died exactly the way Prophet Elijah prophesied.

GEHAZI'S GREED AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

(II Kings 5:1-27)

Gehazi was the servant of **Prophet Elisha**, who helped Elisha in administration. He met his Waterloo when a leper – **Naaman** came for healing.

Naaman was a great man – the commander of the Syrian army but a leper. Naaman had a house maid who was captured from Israel during a war. She told her mistress about a man of God (Elisha) in Israel who can proffer solution to Naaman's leprosy. Naaman went to the king of Syria who gave him letter to the king of Israel – **Joram**. When Joram saw the letter, he rent his clothes thinking it was an invitation to war in disguise. The news got to Elisha and he asked Naaman be brought to him. When Naaman got to Elisha, he sent his messenger to tell Naaman to go and wash himself

seven times in river Jordan. Naaman became annoyed as he thought Elisha would give him instant cure, stating that the rivers in **Abana and Pharpah** in Damascus were better than all the rivers in Israel.

Naaman decided to go after much persuasion from his servants. He dipped himself seven times and had an instant cure. He was very happy and utterly amazed. Immediately he went back to give gifts to Elisha but Elisha refused to accept it. He further asked for permission to go with two mules burden of earth (sand) to build an altar for the Living God.

Gehazi ran after him seeking for the gifts his master rejected. He told Naaman that two sons of the prophets had just visited Elisha and Elisha requested that Naaman should give them through him a talent of gold and two garments, which Naaman did. When he returned, Elisha asked him why he took presents from Naaman. He then cursed him that the leprosy of Naaman should cleave to the body of Gehazi and he became a leper immediately.

ASSIGNMENT

Explain three ways people are greedy today