

## **Have You Any Idols in Your Heart? – 23 Jan 2005**

- Joshua Daniel

The 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of 1kings: And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of king Ahab of Samaria.

And Ahab spake unto Naboth saying Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house and I will give you for at a better vineyard than it or it seem good to you, I will give you the worth of it in money.

And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto you.

And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread: - you see king went into a tantrum. I don't know if anybody here is given to tantrums in their houses but here is one. And Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said unto him, why is your spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

And he said unto her because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it: And he answered, I will not give you my vineyard.

And Jezebel his wife said unto him, does thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let your heart be merry: I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

Here was a heathen woman, a woman who together with her husband had lead Israel into Idolatry. I don't know how many of you have ever worshiped Idols, pettishes or anything like that. As far as I am concerned I never worshiped any idols. But there were idols in my heart like; games became a big idol. Then a girl began to take on the form of an idol. You see, and the lord had to deliver me from that idol. You see money was never an Idol to me. Here, the nation had been lead into sin and idolatry. Today we see many nations being lead into idolatry. Materialism is a form of idolatry and

it's a very strong form of idolatry. There are some people who tell their wives you have got to go to work, why, I don't make enough money to buy all the things that I want to buy. Some people are slaves of the shop window. If they see something very nice and glittering and attractive, they say hey I must get it. Some people venerate education! I have found that degrees can be an awful idol to some people. I must get this degree, What? Is the degree going to make you? No. I would rather that you said; I want to be sure that I do god's will. That will build you that will make you into a great blessing. But I've seen people who make their degree a great idol and that annuls years of usefulness and they never get into orbit. You see they never get into the trajectory which god had planned for them. They are all low flying and everybody says oh, yes, he's a fine fellow, he's doing a great job but where, he missed god's will. Some people miss god's will in marriage. Oh that's another point where the devil gets hold of the scruff of many people. You see as they say they fell head over the heels in love they say. But I say very often it's a lust, it's not real love. The love of god gives to you a constancy, faithfulness. You may see any number of tarmars'. There are too many people who go about charming. And I want to tell you it's not very hard to charm a woman. You just need to flatter her a little and that's it. I have found prince charming. You know how people love flattery? So a boy, a girl becomes a big idol. And god says, flee fornication. Flee idolatry. And here this idolatrous woman and her husband who was also conjoined in the crime had lead a whole nation in to idolatry. So we are seeing today a vacuum and the vacuum of idolatry is a terrible vacuum. We see this king set his heart upon a neighbor's property. I often say to people be careful about the kind of fence which you have. One of the first things that you must do today is to fix your boundary so that there is no trouble about the boundary between you and your neighbor. Fix it, call a surveyor, fix the boundary because fences and boundaries walk during the night. You know and even surveys tolls, take leaps, it's amazing, we've got a crooked, wicked society that can't see a neighbor happy. How sad! And he set his heart on his neighbor's property. And the poor fellow said, this came to me from my fathers and I must keep it. Quite legitimate; and the king had his choice of buying anywhere. Why just fix his gaze upon his neighbor's property. Oh it's convenient, it's just a joining my place, who is this fellow to say No to me anyway? You know there are some people who can't take a NO. and they sit very religiously in church. They can't take a NO. you must be able to take a NO. Otherwise you can't live. You know there are some

boys and girls who can't take a No from a dad, from a mom, they can't take a NO. one of the boys, not far from where I was living, his mother apparently said to him, No you can't go out this evening for the date. So what did he do? Just a teenage boy of some 16 or 15, killed his mother, put her in the fridge with his sister and went off with this dance or date. Some people can't take a NO! Here is a king can't take a NO, you know I too was very proud, very stupid; it would go against the grain with me to take a NO. But how many times god said to me, NO. And had I gone against the will of god, my life would have been finished. You must learn to take the NOs that come from god. Don't speak those words, don't take that hasty action, don't plunge into that relationship, don't fight against the truth of my word; Take it; and if you don't, let me tell you there is disaster ahead. Say we want two people to live happily ever after. How long does that happiness last? Here are two people who cannot take a NO. self-willed proud people who have broken all the ten commandments in the days of their youth. They couldn't take a NO even from God. So this man went to bed, wouldn't eat and turned his face towards the wall, and his wife comes along, dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be merry. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. So what did she do? She instigated some wicked people to team up and accuse Naboth of blaspheme. And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants of this city did as Jezeble had said unto them. And as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them;

Exodus chapter 23 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse, thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil. Neither shall thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.