

Don't Sell Out!

- *I Kings 21:1-3*

- **Today I want to discuss with you one of my big concerns for the church in this generation that we are living in today.**
 1. There's a lot of things that are surrounding the church (and I am talking about the fundamental, Bible-believing church), that we as a body of believers need to be on guard about.
 - The truth is, there are many today who do not believe as we do & are willing to do whatever it takes to cease our Christian living & Bible preaching.
 - There are those that believe that our convictions & our standards are too extreme for the world that we are living in & that they should be done away with it & they mock us for living by them.
 - The rights of the local church is being invaded seemingly on every hand by our government & certainly this sinful world.
 - The term church is being abused by many religious groups today & though they seem like a Christian church from their presentation, there is no "True Message" being preached because the Gospel has been left out.
 2. There are some other things that concern me though specifically with even our church & our generation & the generation behind us.
 3. It's not the danger of them not knowing about Jesus, for the Gospel is more spread abroad today than it has ever been before.
 - Granted, there are still parts of the world that are not influenced with the Gospel message; but by far, the Gospel has been spread both far & wide.
 4. It's not the danger of understanding right from wrong that I fear the most, though certainly we are living in a time where wrong seems right & right seems wrong to so many.
 5. One of the things that concerns me about this generation & certainly the generations to follow is the possibility of "Selling Out".
- **The term "Sell Out" is used for a lot of different reasons in our world today.**
 1. If someone is going out of business, they often times refer to it as selling out.
 2. If a new item hits the shelves in a store they will advertise that "this item may sell out".
 3. To betray (an associate, one's country, a cause, etc.); turn traitor:
 - Adam & Eve sold out the paradise for the serpent.
 - Adam and Eve had everything they could possibly want, except for one thing, they could not eat from one tree. They could do anything they wanted to with the tree. They could look at it, they could touch it, they could climb it, but God had told them very specifically in Genesis 2:16-17, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
 - Pretty plain, pretty clear, no ambiguity there, this is what you must not do. And when Satan came along to tempt Adam and Eve, what ploy did he use?
 - Genesis 3:4 "Ye shall not surely die:" Satan replied, "No, you won't!". God understands what will happen on the day you eat fruit from that tree. You will see what you have done, and you will know the difference between right and wrong, just as God does."
 - What was he saying? He was saying don't you want what God has? If you just had what God had, then you'd be really happy.
 - As you look across the Bible, what is it that gets people in trouble? Wanting what somebody else has. And it's not just a matter of wanting something like the one they have, it's wanting what they have, so they can't have it anymore because it's yours.

- Judas sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
 - He had been hanging around with the wrong people, pretending to be a follower of Christ & in the end gave Jesus over to the Roman officials for 30 pcs. Of silver.
- **Whatever happen to men & women who refused to sell out? That’s what we need today, some people who will determine to live for God, stand for the principles of God’s Word & protect the foundations of Christianity in their lives, their homes & their churches.**
- **Our passage introduces us to one such man who refused to sell his vineyard.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
 1. A man named Naboth lived in Jezreel. Naboth owned a vineyard that was situated beside the summer palace of Ahab, the king of Israel,
 2. **Verse 2** tells us that Ahab wanted Naboth’s vineyard and offered to trade him a better vineyard, or to pay him cash for his land.
 3. It seems like a reasonable offer on the surface. The king wanted this patch of ground close to his palace to raise himself a vegetable garden. But, Naboth refuses the king’s offer.
- **I want to look at Naboth’s refusal today. I want to talk about the reasons why Naboth said “No?” to Ahab. I want to talk about what this passage has to say to us today.**
 1. There are some folks in our world that would try to take away what we have been given by the Lord. When they come to us with their plans and ideas we need to be able to say “I’m Not Selling Out!”
- I. **Naboth Refused Because Of God’s Word**
 - a. This Was Against God’s Covenant
 - i. The king’s request seems reasonable enough. He said, “*Give me your field and I will give you a better field in return, or I will pay you whatever you ask in cash.*” Naboth refused on the grounds that God said he could not sale the land.
 - ii. **Lev. 25:23-28; Num. 36:7.** In fact, the Word of God was clear that the king could not buy the inheritance of the people, **Eze. 46:18.**
 - iii. Naboth realized that what he possessed was not his to sale anyway. What he possessed was the gift of God and he was merely a caretaker. Naboth was to keep the land in the family and pass it down from generation to generation.
 - b. We need to take an inventory of all the great gifts that we have been given by the Lord.
 - i. Our lives. Just as Naboth said this land is not mine, it’s the Lord’s, so should we remember that these bodies are not ours, they really belong to the Lord.
 1. “Well I will live my life however I want to.” Let me tell you something, you better be careful making statements like that. God created you, it is God that sustains your life, and it is God Who can take the very breath that you breathe.
 2. God created us to serve Him, He created us to worship Him & we owe our lives to Him b/c of what He did for us at Calvary’s cross.
 - ii. The Church. I take these group of believers very seriously. I protect not only this flock, but I protect the things that we stand for & for what we believe in.
 1. “Well Pastor, things are changing & we need to adapt.” Oh no we don’t. We may be in this world, but we are not to be of this world.
 2. I am not bringing the world’s music in here to attract people, we are not changing our standards to appease people & we are certainly not going to turn the House of God into some type of party house just so we can get people in the door.
 3. God called us to live a separated life, different from this world, and that’s the way we should worship as well.

- iii. The Bible. God help us if we take the Word of God or the Blood out of our preaching & our worship. If it were not for the blood, we would be lost forever; but b/c of the blood we can have remission of sins & stand righteous before a Holy God.
- iv. We need to remember that these things are not ours to do with as we please. We are merely custodians of these things. We are caretakers who must pass them along to the next generation. We have what we have because someone took care of it and handed it down, & we must do the same!
 - 1. There's some Ahab's out in this world who will ask you just to give them a little piece of your land, just bow in your convictions this one time, just lay this standard down over here, it's OK, it won't hurt not to pray tonight, don't worry about reading your Bible every day, and before you know it, the enemy has begun to take your land piece by piece.
- v. As men & women of God, as teenagers may we be more determined than ever to stand firm on the principles of God's Word.
 - 1. Don't you let some snotty nose boy tell you that you are being stuck-up b/c you won't have sex with him.
 - 2. Don't you allow your friends to make fun of you b/c you won't drink or take their drugs.
 - 3. Don't you be forced to do things at the company party that you would never do before your spouse or your kids.
 - 4. Listen, we need some people to make a LOUD stand for God not only for this generation, but for the generation that is following us...

II. Naboth Refused Because Of Family Expectations

a. Naboth's Family Ties

- i. The key to understanding Naboth is to realize that for him, the land in question was never just a piece of property. His vineyard was his inheritance from his ancestors, people who had worked and cared for the same piece of land for many generations. It was the one thing that he would be able to pass on to his own children.
 - ii. Naboth's fathers had passed this inheritance down to him, one day he would join them in passing that inheritance down to the next generation. If he sold the farm, there would be nothing to hand down. If he sold what he had, Naboth would be left with nothing! His inheritance had been passed down by the will of the fathers for centuries and he refused to sell what they had entrusted him to pass down to others. Thus, he said, "It's not for sale!"
- b. If we sell our inheritance we will have nothing to hand down to our children. Let's consider what we have been entrusted to guard and hand down.
- i. **Salvation** – People are preaching many plans of salvation & if we deviate from the Word of God, we are doing the next generation a great injustice.
 - 1. We must guard salvation and we do so by proclaiming the truth of God's Word.
 - 2. There's not multiple ways to Heaven, you cant be good enough to get to Heaven, Jesus is the ONLY way to Heaven. And so when people try to change the Gospel, tell them "*It's not for sale!*"
 - ii. **Scripture** – Many are denying the Word of God in this hour. The Bible is still the Word of God, **2 Tim. 3:16**. It is still powerful, **Heb. 4:12**. It is still truth, **John 17:17**. It is still inerrant, infallible and inspired. We guard it by reading it, proclaiming it and living it out day by day. When they try to take your Bible, change your Bible or offer you another book, tell them "*It's not for sale!*"
 - iii. **Separation** – Churches and the people who make them up are in the business of lowering the walls of separation between themselves and the world. The common adage in our day is this: "*To win them we must be like them.*"

1. Do you understand what Jesus meant when He commanded us to be separate from the world. He meant, “*to mark oneself off from others by boundaries.*” It is the picture of building walls of separation between the church and the world. We need those walls of separation in our deeds, our dress, our worship, and our standards. When they try to get you to be like them, just tell them “*It’s not for sale!*”

III. Naboth Refused Because Of Its Worth

- Naboth is saying, “*You are not worthy to buy at any price that which I have received by inheritance. It’s not for sale!*” (1 Kings 28-29)
- We can’t put a price tag on our inheritance & what God has passed down to us. Don’t allow a moment of pleasure to strip away something that is so valuable to you.
 - o Your purity.
 - o Your testimony.
 - o Your family.
- We must not give the sinful desires of the people of this world so much as an inch; for if we do so, we will be left with nothing to pass to the next generation.
 - o Ephesians 4:27 – “Neither give place to the devil.”
- What we have is worth more than pleasing the world, the flesh or the devil. What we have is worth more than fitting in and being accepted. We must guard what we have at all costs. Nothing matters but pleasing the Lord! When they try to take what you have just tell them “I’m Not Selling Out!”
 - o Matthew 7:6 – “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

➤ Some of you may be intrigued as to how this story ended up.

1. v. 4 Ahab Pouted
 - Because this wealthy King did not get what he wanted from Naboth, he went home sulking & pouting before his wicked wife Jezebel.
2. v. 5-10 Jezebel Plotted
 - King Ahab was beside himself b/c he could not have this piece of land & so he went home & stopped eating & laid in his bed crying relentlessly.
 - Now this sounds ridiculous & say, “There is no way that this is the way things played out.” Yet this is exactly what the scriptures say happened.
 - Jezebel says, “I thought you were the King? I thought you ruled this place? Get up & eat & I will take care of this.
 - So she puts a plan into action, signs his name to this proposed plan & sends it to his people for her plan to be carried out.
3. v. 11-16 Naboth Perished
 - All of the men of the city & the elders & the leaders had already sold out to wicked Jezebel & whatever she wanted & that put her plan into motion & soon Naboth was stoned to death simply b/c he would not Sell Out to the King.
 - Now as we look at this story, we say, “That’s not how I envisioned this story to end up. I thought God would come in & save the day & set the King & Jezebel in their place.”
 - But there are times where the people of God pay a price for standing up for what’s right.
 - o It may mean getting hurt & getting mistreated.
 - o It may mean having to sacrifice in order to stand up for God.
 - o And even in some distant circumstances, it may require further consequences such as extradition, imprisonment or even death.
 - But before you go away feeling defeated, let me remind you once again that God will prevail & He will be sure to reward the faithfulness of His people.

- Just because Naboth was stoned to death & it look as though he & his stand had been defeated, God sent a man onto the scene to set the record straight.

4. v. 17-29 God Prevailed.

- Naboths' main objective was to do the right thing, stand for the covenant of God, defend his inheritance & pass the land on to the next generation, and in the end, God honored his stand for Him.
 - Elijah comes on the scene & hands a sobering message to both Ahab & Jezebel of how they would pay for their crimes & for their sins.
 - Jezebel would die a horrible death in the very city where these crimes were committed.
 - And anyone "belonging to Ahab" would die as a result of their sins.
 - Elijah's message brought about fear & conviction to Ahab's life for a while, but Ahab was never repentant because he had sold out to sin.
 - 21:20 – "And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast **sold thyself to work evil** in the sight of the LORD."
 - 21:25 – "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did **sell himself to work wickedness** in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up."
 - God honored his repentant attitude & prolonged his judgment, but Ahab never turned from his sin. And once you sell out, there are some significant consequences to pay.
 - Several years passed & a war developed between Syria & Israel. In this battle several important people are involved, one of which is Ahab.
 - On this particular day at battle (22:34), a soldier drew a bow & shot it into the air & it landed just above the breastplate of King Ahab. He was seriously wounded & was trapped in his chariot until he bled to death.
 - As the prophet had foretold, the Bible goes on to tell us that the dogs did lick up his blood. (1 Kings 22:38)
 - It also tells us how dogs finally ate Jezebel's body after her vicious and bloody death, leaving only the bones of her skull, her feet and her hands! (2 Kings 9:35)
 - And just in case we might still be concerned that God is not taking this seriously enough, we are told that all seventy of Ahab's sons were massacred in one terrible blood bath and their heads carried in baskets to their enemies. (2 Kings 10:1-11)
- **Naboth paid a price, but he stood his ground for the Lord and his inheritance was passed down to the next generation.**
- **Because of Ahab & Jezebel's sin, God's judgment was cast upon them & they paid with their lives for the wrong they had done.**
- When you compromise, when you sell out, not only will you pay the price, but often times those following behind you pay a great price as well.
- **There was another Who was falsely lied about, persecuted & ultimately gave of His life on Calvary's cross for the sins of all mankind. He died in our place so that we could live for Him.**
- **What the next generation has tomorrow will be determined by what we do today. Let's come before the Lord, thank Him, for what we have and determine that WE WILL NOT SELL OUT!"**