

The Elijah Journal #6

“MERCY TRUMPS JUDGMENT” 1 Kings 21

1. THE CRIME SCENE (1Kings 21:1-16) “CSI – Samaria”

Ahab

- covets a vineyard close to his palace
- makes an offer to Naboth, the owner
- Naboth refuses it based on the “sacred stewardship “of the land. (Leviticus 25:23-28)
- he sulks, complains to Jezebel who plots Naboth’s murder to keep Ahab happy

2. THE PROSECUTION (1Kings 21:17-26)

Elijah

- silent, inactive for years but ready when the word of the Lord came again
- the truth about Ahab’s crime is revealed

Numbers 32:23... “may be sure your sin will find you out”

- prophesies judgment on Ahab (19,20), on his sons and all males in Israel (21), on Jezebel (23,26)

3. THE REDUCED SENTENCE (1Kings 21:27-28)

- Ahab repented (27)
- mercy applied (28,29) – not complete pardon but delayed until after his death

WHAT DOES THIS STORY SAY TO US TODAY?

I. The human heart is deceitful above all things

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

II. All sin deserves God’s judgment

Hebrews 9:27 Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment.

III. God extends His mercy to all who trust in Jesus Christ

Psalms 130:3 If you O Lord, kept a record of sins
O Lord who would stand.
But with you there is forgiveness
Therefore you are feared.

Ephesians 2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

IV. Just like Elijah Believers in Jesus Christ must be ready to speak to others about the truth of the gospel.