

Prestonwood Connection 2005

#2 Unknown Heroes

Naboth: Staying The Course When You Know The Cost

1 Kings 21

Wednesday, April 6, 2005 • Dr. David McKinley

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Well, that's a whole new take on *How Great Thou Art*, and a..., I don't know about you but I love that song tonight and it was great to hear and what a great time of...of praise and worship we've shared. The Lord is good, the Lord is great and we do give Him thanks tonight for the joy of being here and being together and having and opening His word a..., to let it speak to our hearts and to encourage our lives tonight.

It was on a Wednesday night in 1919 that a 31-year-old Southern Baptist Pastor by the name of Bob Lee stood in a prayer meeting and brought a few devotional thoughts out of the book of 1st Kings, chapter 21 and that night after he finished sharing those thoughts and the church spent some time praying a deacon came up to him and said to him, "Bob, that was an incredible thought tonight I really think you have something there." He said, "I wanna encourage you to really take that and to use it and preach it on a Sunday." Well, young Bob Lee went home that night so inspired and encouraged by the words of that deacon that he stayed up till 2 o'clock in the morning expanding his study, expanding his thoughts and developing a message. The message that took shape was a message that would from that day, for six solid decades, be repeated time and time again, year after year, so much so that by the time of Bob Lee's death then know as Dr. R. G. Lee, he had preached one sermon entitled, *Pay Day Someday*, 1,215 times. Now that wasn't the only sermon that he preached. He preached every...every week of his life as a pastor, filling the pulpit of my home church, Belleview Church in Memphis, Tennessee. He offered over 40 books in his lifetime, he served as 3 terms of the...the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, but so great and so compelling were the thoughts and were the presentation of the things that were shared out of the book of 1st Kings 21 that this single sermon, *Pay Day Someday*, defined so much of his life and his ministry. Interestingly enough he preached this sermon at the State Capitol of Texas. He also preached it before the Legislature of Tennessee. He preached it in ballparks and stadiums and foreign lands and tent revivals and everywhere that he went people wanted to hear the wonderful message and the convicting and powerful message *Pay Day Someday*. Well, if I've said enough tonight to wet your appetite you can simply go to the website there on the front of the worship guide, www.sbc.net and if you'll look at *Facts and Faith* and *Southern Baptist Voices* you can actually pull up and listen on line to this great sermon. I wanna tell you

in advance that it was done a number of years ago and it sounds a lot more like you're listening to a...an old vintage radio broadcast, much more than something that would be modern that you would hear today and the style of the message is very distinct and very different, for it was presented in a very dramatic fashion, very oratorical in it's a..., tone and quality and so you will have to listen as you begin to see what unfolded in the events of 1st Kings, chapter 21, but this chapter is the expression of a dark era in the life of the nation of Israel. There was a wicked king, though he had been appointed as ~~God~~...as the leader of God's people and God's nation of Israel and this wicked king had brought great corruption to all of the people and to all of the land and what Dr. Lee did in the message entitled, *Pay Day Someday*, was to take 8 dramatic, unfolding events and to let them begin to tell something of the work of God to bring righteousness and judgment in a day, in an hour of need in the life of His people, Israel. And it is in that chapter that we are introduced to another name, a man, a rather unknown name in the Bible, a man by the name of Naboth, and it is Naboth who is our unknown hero that we are going to examine and to observe tonight as I share with you this message, *Staying The Course When You Know The Cost, Staying The Course When You Know The Cost*.

I wanna invite you to open your Bible to 1st Kings, chapter 21 and I thought it might be of interest to you tonight as I read this passage of Scripture that we would simply look at the acts that unfolded in the dramatic presentation of this message I mentioned to you entitled, *Pay Day Someday*, and so if you'll read along with me I think you'll understand something of the impact of this message as it was shared and delivered in that time. Beginning in chapter 21 and verse 1 we see the first act and Dr. Lee called it...

ACT 1: THE REAL ESTATE REQUEST; let's read it together:

¹And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ²So Ahab spoke to Naboth saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house, and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." ³But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

So here the king, the ruler, the mightiest man in the land makes a request of a small land owner just outside the gate of his sprawling palatial summer palace and Naboth said, "No!" That takes us to the second Act:

ACT 2: THE POUTING POTENTATE; I told you it was an oratorical style, but I think you get the picture and so let's continue reading here in verse 4:

So Ahab went to his house sullen, pouting and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my father." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

I mean, the king just had one major pity party; whole day ruined because of what little Naboth did and that little tract of ground and so we go to the 3rd act and that is we meet...

ACT 3: THE WICKED WIFE; the wicked wife, the Bible says in verse 5:

⁵*But Jezebel...*

Have you ever heard that name before? Typically that's not a name that a..., has a lot of prominence today. Most people don't name their daughters Jezebel and there's a reason, as we read you will know why.

...Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" ⁶And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard or money, or else, if it pleases you, and I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered and said, "I won't give you my vineyard.'" And then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

Here she just asserted herself and said if that's your problem, you're in charge, I'll take care of gettin you that piece of land and Dr. Lee in his incredible way described her in her heart and her mind as a polluted reservoir, as a poisonous pocket for which his cruel things fed, as a sulfurous pit and as the devil's grindstone, and he was so passionate in preaching this point about who Jezebel was and what she was like that he then turned to the audience and he said this to them, and I want you to read it, he said:

"Search the pages of the Bible, all you will, study history all you please and you will find one truth that stands out above other truths. What is that truth? The truth that the spiritual life of a nation, city, town, school, church, home never rises any higher than the spiritual life of women. When women sag morally and spiritually men sag morally and spiritually. When women slump morally and spiritually men slip morally and spiritually. When women take the downward road, men travel with them and when women are lame morally and spiritually men limp morally and spiritually. The degeneration of womanhood helps the decay of manhood."

It wasn't exactly a politically correct sermon was it? [slight congregation laughter] That takes us to the next act it's...

ACT 4: THE MESSAGE MEANING MURDER, that's right! Beginning in verse 8:

⁸*And she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal,...*

That is, you know how they would take the ring of the king and they would put wax on an official document and the in-signet of the ring of the king would be put there, as though it were, to authorize and to officialize this, as it were, an act of state.

⁹...and she sent letters to the elders and said to the nobles and to all in the city proclaim a fast and seat Naboth with high honor among the people,
¹⁰and then seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him and have them say, "You have blasphemed God and the king." And then take him out, and stone him, that he may die. ¹¹And so the men of the city did just exactly what Jezebel told them to do.

Here's a man who stood his ground with the king, who did what was right and you'll understand that more in just a moment, but who ultimately paid the ultimate price. His own life was taken because of the murderous heart of Jezebel and because of the selfish and sullen spirit of Ahab. And so that's act number 5, we got the message, now here's what happened, number 5, beginning in verse 12, and it was...

ACT 5: THE FATAL FAST; they did exactly what she said, they sat him in honor among the people and ultimately in the middle of the fast two men stood up and began to falsely accuse him and Naboth was taken out and Naboth was stoned and a righteous man's life was taken away because of the evil and the wickedness of these two and so that takes us to the visit to the vineyard. That was...

ACT 6: THE VISIT TO THE VINEYARD; We pick up and begin to read down in verse 15:

¹⁵And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." ¹⁶So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up, went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

And whenever Dr. Lee would get to this point in the message he would begin to ask a question. It was the question that we all feel as we read this portion of Scripture tonight. It's the very thing that we all feel in life when we seek to do what is right and begin to feel that there are consequences for right doing and not wrongdoing and that is that Dr. Lee would raise his voice and he would often say this over and over and over again.

"Where is God? Where is God? Is He blind that He cannot see? Is He deaf that He cannot hear? Is He dumb that He cannot speak? Is He paralyzed so that He cannot move? Where is God?"

Have you ever asked that question? Have you ever looked at the circumstances of your life, have you ever looked at what's happening around and the corruption of the world and you seen righteous people who suffer and wicked people who prosper and all that you want to do on the inside is to cry out in those very same words. Where is God? Well, it's time to see in act 7, beginning in verse 17 we see...

ACT 7: THE ALARMING APPEARANCE, the alarming appearance:

¹⁷Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸"Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. ¹⁹You shall speak to him, and say this, 'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"' And you shall speak to him saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs will lick your blood, even yours."'" ²⁰And Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you,..."

Listen to this!

"...because you sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord:"

He said, Ahab, you're a sellout, you've sold your soul. What a contrast there is in this passage; here is Naboth the man who would not be bought, who would not sellout, who was a man of integrity and here on the other hand is Ahab, a man who bears the robes of the regal order of the king of Israel, the chosen of God and he's a total sellout to sin, to evil and to his own way. And it is this issue, this issue of integrity that I want us to spend the remainder of our time on this evening, because you see in life there is ever before us the temptation and the challenge to sellout to the world or to stand firm and follow Jesus Christ. Now, Jesus put it before His disciples this way: [Mark 8:36]

"What will it profit you if you gain the whole world and loose your own soul?..."

And yet, every day, all around us there are people who have sold their souls to this world, to the things of this world, to the passions of this world, to the lust of this world, to the values of this world and mind, heart and soul they are bought in to the world and of the ~~prince of the~~ ~~prince and the~~ principalities of this world unto the wicked ruler of Satan himself and we live in a world that is diluted by sin and many people who are captured in the bondage of sin and the challenge comes to us will we sellout or we stand strong? Now let me make it very clear, Naboth was not just some stubborn, proud, you know, little man with a kind of a Napoleon complex who was just tryin to prove that he could buck the king. Don't for a moment get the idea that he had that kind of spirit.

I...it's kinda like that story...do you all remember that story John West used to tell around here so often about the little yappy dog every day that would come down the street and would walk over by the yard? And...and there at that yard behind a chain link fence was a great big Doberman and that little dog would come up and just start barkin and yappin and snortin and sniffin and he'd go all the way down and he'd jump up and grab hold of the gate. He'd just get on that gate and just bark, bark, bark and that Doberman would come and bark and bark. It was almost like a, well you know baseball's just started back, it was almost like a manager and an umpire out there, just they were tyin it on, on the fence and that little dog

would get down off that fence and just walk away and then the next day he'd repeat it over and over again. That is he did it every day until one day he came down walked along the fence, jumped up on the gate, started barkin and about that time the gate just kinda swung open. Heh! [slight congregation laughter] Well, the little dog didn't do that any more. [more laughter] But when I talk to you about Naboth, I'm not telling you he was some sort of a bristly little dog. I'm not tellin you he was some sort of an upstart little man. What I'm telling you about this man is that what Naboth said to Ahab was something that was written in the Scripture. In the book of Leviticus, chapter 25 and verse 23, we read that the Scripture prohibited, the word of God gave a specific prohibition about selling the land of your fathers, because God wanted the land to be protected.

The land is not to be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; if you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

Now I'm just reading one verse, but it's in a larger context and whenever you inherited land you were to be a steward of that land and to pass it to future generations. The land was not for consumption; it was not a commodity to be sold for your own profit. It was a stewardship you received from your family and when you got the land you were to keep the land and so Naboth, when he was approached by Ahab, was approached by a man who simply disregarded and despised the word of God. He didn't care what God's word said. He didn't have any intention of being obedient to the word of God. He just had a lust, a desire of the eye and he was going to fulfill it. He liked the vineyard, he liked the garden and yet Naboth was a man of principle, he was a man of conviction, he was a man of faith. He was a man who was true to his God and true to his heritage and true to himself. Naboth was a man of integrity. I ask you tonight, are you a man or woman of integrity. It was Nathaniel Hawthorne who said:

"No man, for any considerable time can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude without finally getting bewildered as to which is the true one."

You can't live a lie. At some point the lie will be exposed, the truth will be known, you will have to ultimately be known for who you are. Now we hear this word integrity a lot today, but what is integrity? What is integrity? Well, I just took the op...the time and the opportunity to look in the dictionary, and this is what the *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* tells us:

Integrity is an unimpaired condition, it is soundness, it is firm adherence to a code, especially a...a moral or an artistic value, it involves incorruptibility, it's the quality or state of being complete, undivided, completeness or wholeness.

And it's exactly what God longs for in His people. Solomon, the wise king of Israel wrote in the book of Proverbs ~~chapter 20...or excuse me~~ chapter 10 in verse 9:

People who have integrity have firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.

You see your life is secure, your footsteps are firm, when you are a man or a woman of integrity and God wants us to be people of integrity. Though we live in a world that is broken and divided and deceived and it's not enough to just have a good external image there has to be the reality of character in you. Did you see the special report this week on the *Today Show*? The lead off story on Monday morning about kids and schools and cheating and what a horrendous problem and what a widespread problem it is in elementary and high schools today because there is no common source of truth and standard and morality among our children and our families. We're living in a world that knows so little of integrity and we're fostering generations that don't embrace and understand the importance of integrity. I wanna give you just for your consideration and for your benefit tonight, 5 intrinsic benefits of a life of integrity. To be a man like Naboth, to be a woman who has the character that was seen in the life of Naboth, there are some intrinsic benefits to living this kind of life. I know there was a cost, but there's much greater benefit than there is cost. Consider this tonight when you have integrity...

INTEGRITY BRINGS CONTINUITY TO YOUR LIFE. Instead of having your life look like a debris field where everything is scattered to and fro, when you have integrity your life is together. Integrity gives you continuity. Proverbs 11 in verse 3 says:

The integrity of the honest keeps them on track, But the deviousness of crooks brings them to ruin.

You see when I have integrity in my life I'm able to stay the course, I'm able to stay on track. I'm able to have a sense of continuity and consistency in my life. That's why Billy Graham said:

"Integrity is the glue that holds our way of life together. We must constantly strive to keep our integrity in tact."

When your integrity is gone all of your life is gone, it's scattered to the wind. But not only this...

INTEGRITY BUILDS TRUST IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS. You see there's a trust in your relationships when you have integrity. Isn't it interesting that ~~though we're inter...~~ though we're not introduced to Naboth's wife or his children, though we do learn from other portions of Scripture that they also were murdered to remove them. We aren't introduced to any of them, but what we do know about this man is that he fulfilled the trust of his fathers. He honored God and he honored his family. He was a man of truth and of trustworthiness and he was a man who could be depended upon and when there's integrity in your life it builds trust in your relationships, because you cannot have a relationship without truth and trust. And then...

INTEGRITY INCREASES THE INFLUENCE OF YOUR LIFE; who you are and what you

are, it's substantive. It's not just image, it's not just show, it's not just smoke and mirror... < turn tape > ...your life has substance and therefore your life has influence. I love what John Maxwell says on this subject. He says:

"If everything rises and falls on leadership, than the secret to rising and not falling is integrity."

And if you're a person of integrity you have the first and most foundational of all the qualities of leadership, because everybody you influence, will be influenced right and for good because of the integrity of your life. That's why the Bible says in Proverbs in verse 20: [verse 7]

The righteous man walks in integrity; and his children are blessed after him.

And then...

INTEGRITY REDUCES STRESS IN YOUR LIFE. Heh! All of us could use a little bit of stress reduction couldn't we? You want me to tell you how? Integrity! When you're not spendin all your time tryin to remember what you've done from one place to the next, balancing your image, you know the problem with balancing your image is it's like a sagging balloon, it's just always kinda loosin steam and you gotta try to blow it up again. But you see when you're a person of integrity it's just the opposite, there's consistency in your life and there is a lack of stress in your life. Proverbs 20 in verse 3 says: **[should be 11:3]**

He who walks with integrity, walks securely.

And then...don't miss this!

INTEGRITY CHALLENGES COURAGEOUS DECISIONS. When you're a man or a woman of integrity, integrity has a benefit. It may have a cost, but it has a benefit and that is that it challenges courageous decisions in your life. There are times when integrity will not permit you to make a concession. It was so with Naboth, he could not be true to who he was and make a concession to Ahab and so he stood and said whatever the cost I'm gonna stay the course. And when you have integrity in your life you begin to have the quality in you that makes you the kind of person that is able to have courage and strength and power. That's what happened in the life of Moses. Do you remember what the Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews chapter 11, beginning in verse 24 and following? The Bible tells us that Moses became of age and he refused to be called Pharaohs...the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose, rather, to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the approach of Christ greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt. You see Moses made a courageous decision. Why? Because integrity had forged in him the ability to be a man of courage, and though he saw himself as a weak man and though he saw himself as a frail man, what God ultimately did through Moses' life changed the world and so integrity is

very important. It's a phenomenal benefit in my life and in your life. Abraham Lincoln said it this way:

~~"When I lay down the reins of my life or of my administration...let me start that again."~~

"When I lay down the reins of my administration I want to have one friend left and that friend is inside myself."

Would you agree with me that integrity cost Abraham Lincoln and certainly we see tonight that integrity cost Naboth, but oh the greater benefit of being a man, of being a woman who was faithful to God; a man, a woman who will not in any way veer off course because there is the quality of integrity in you. Well what happened? We've seen this unfolding experience with Ahab and Jezebel and the people of that day. We've met this man of integrity, Naboth, the man who stayed the course though he knew the cost. Naboth certainly knew that to rebuke or to resist the king was very serious, but he was faithful. But there is one more chapter, there's one more act and the act is...

ACT 8: PAYDAY ITSELF! Payday itself! In 1st Kings chapter 21, verses 21 and 23 we're told of a judgment that would come upon Ahab, that he would literally himself be murdered, that his life would be taken and that one day...listen to this, the dogs would eat his blood and not only did it say that about Ahab, but it also said that it would happen to Jezebel in verse 23, that, that wicked woman, who devised that plot and who destroyed that man's life, that she too would one day have her own blood spilled and that the dogs would eat her blood and this is the biblical summary of Ahab and Jezebel, verse 25:

...there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because of Jezebel his wife who stirred him up.

How would you like to have that as the inscription of your life in the Bible? No one who was so wicked. Well, what happened? Well, we read the word of God and we discover in 1st Kings, chapter 22, beginning down in verse 34 that there was a battle and on this day of battle Ahab did as the other kings did, they came together to form a coalition and to try to withstand their enemies, but in the heat of battle and in the moment of the furor of the day a group of marksmen, not with guns, but with arrows began an assault upon those who were around the king and yet the Bible says in verse 34:

There was a certain man who drew a bow...

And it even says:

...at random,...

He was shooting, but...but this was just a random shot and it says:

...and it struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor, and he said to the driver of the chariot. "Turn around and take me out of battle, for I'm wounded."

And the Bible goes on to tell us that for the remainder of that day that Ahab was propped up in the chariot and they tried to keep him alive throughout the day, but that he died at the evening and the blood from his wound had run down into the floor of the chariot.

³⁸And then someone washed the chariot at the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked the blood while the harlots bathed according to the word of God.

Pay day, it came, it came, you see there may be a cost for integrity but there's a greater cost for deceitfulness and for ungodliness. Dr. Lee said:

"Did God mean what he said? Or was he playing a prank on royalty? Did pay day come? Pay Day Someday is written into the constitution of God's universe. The reattributed providence of God is a reality as certainly as night follows day because sin carries itself, the seed of it's own fatal penalty."

And that wasn't the end. Because in 2nd Kings, chapter 9 we read together that sometime after this Jezebel was in a tower, she'd heard that one of the warriors, a man by the name of Jehu, who had been commissioned of God to restore the army and the honor of Israel, began to ride towards that tower and interestingly enough in 2nd Kings 9, verse 36 we read and we learn that as Jehu came riding, actually in verse 30 that she got out paint and began to put it on her face and fix herself up and she was gonna try to seduce him. But he never got to the tower, he simply sent in a runner and said throw her from the tower and the Bible says in verse 36 and 37 of 2nd Kings 9 that when her body hit the ground that the dogs ate the blood. Boy it sound "R" rated doesn't it? I mean it does. It's horrible. It's consequential. It's violent, but you see it's real. It's real because it is a picture in history of how God works and operates. One more time Dr. Lee had said:

"Pay Day Someday, God said it was done."

And then he said:

"Even though the mill of God grinds slowly, it grinds to powder."

There's encouragement in all of this tonight. There's challenge in all of this tonight and do you know what it is? That our God is a God of integrity and because God is a God of integrity who moves and works according to His character of love, grace and mercy and according to His righteousness, justice and judgment that when I live my life in the will of God, I don't have to fear the repercussions of life lived in the will of God because God is my deliverer. You see God defended Naboth. God sheltered a man of integrity and God will shelter you and God will protect

you and God will fulfill His promise to you. Are you facing challenges in your life and in your integrity tonight? Are you at a place in your life where you don't know what's going to happen, what's going to come out, there's a test in your life and your character's being tested? Maybe it's in your marriage, maybe it's with your money, maybe it's on the job, maybe it's in a friendship. I don't know where the test may be, but tonight if you are being tested at the point of your integrity. Then there's the temptation to give in. Then there's the temptation to give up and there's the temptation to go easy, but I wanna remind you tonight that if you will stay the course even though you know the cost and there may be a cost, God in His integrity will shelter you and bless you and care for you. Do you have someone who's become your enemy, you've been a man or a woman of integrity and now they have turned against you, let me remind you of the word of God in Romans chapter 12 in verse 17 in the New Testament, because so many times in life we find ourselves being blamed, being rejected, being assaulted, being accused, but listen to the word of the Lord:

¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

God is gonna take care of you.

²⁰And therefore "If your enemy's hungry, feed him; and if he's thirsty, give him to drink; For in so doing you heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

That is the modern, practical application of integrity in our lives. It's not to find our own way and fight our way out, it is to be the people of God by faith and to let God be our shield and our defense, because our God is a God of integrity. He's a promise maker. He's a promise keeper. It applies to all the areas of defense and protection in life, but it also applies to the greatest promise in all the world and this is God's promise: [Acts 2:21]

Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Who ever calls on the name of Lord will be saved. You see the only way that I could ultimately have integrity is to have integrity first and foremost with God and to have integrity with God means that I have to come to the place that I realize that I'm a sinner and that the quality of sin in my life is offensive to God. It doesn't matter if I can cover it before others and hide it from others and...and paint it with religion; none of that is enough because I have to be true before God and God says:

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

But the wonderful promise of God is: [Romans 5:8]

That though we were sinners God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us.

And Jesus Christ is the sacrifice and the fulfillment of God's judgment on sin that we may be set free from sin and the consequences have life eternal in Him and tonight if you've never made that life connection with Jesus Christ, how I pray that this time, this moment would be that moment for you and that you would begin the journey of becoming a man or a woman of integrity so that every part of your life may come together and that every relationship in your life may be secure and that the influence of the legacy of your life may live on and on in whatever generations will come because you like Naboth have chosen to stay the course even if there is a cost.