

## A Miscarriage of Justice

1 Kings 21:1-29; 1 Peter 4:12-19

*Overview: The setting of our passage is the summer palace in Jezreel, a fertile area some 40 km north of the capital, Samaria. At the end of it we see a good man (Naboth) murdered and a bad man (Ahab the King) sentenced. It begins with a miscarriage of justice – but the Lord steps in and that changes everything.*

1. Please read the whole passage and then come back to vss 1-4. On the face of it, Ahab's request to Naboth seems reasonable. Why did Naboth refuse the King's offer? (see vs 3, plus Lev 25:23–28).
2. In vs 16 Naboth is dead and Ahab gets the vineyard, a reminder that obedience to the Lord can sometimes end in tragedy. In an appropriate way, please share if that has happened to you, or someone you know. What help can you draw from 1 Peter 4:12-19; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Heb 4:14-16.
3. 1 Kings 21:17-26 are the next main section of the passage and make gruesome reading. What will happen to Ahab? And to Jezebel? What is the comfort here? – discuss this together and see if Lk 18:7 and 2 Thessalonians 1:6–7 can help you further.
4. Along with the comfort in vss 17-26 there is also a *challenge*, namely that our sin (not just Ahab's) will find us out. Take some time together to read Luke 12:1-7 and Heb 4:13 and discuss the implications of these passage. In light of this, what is our only hope?
5. 1 Kings 21: 27-29 are striking. Why? See also Ezekiel 33:10,11. What has been your experience of this? Share with one another how you have experienced the heart of God and Bible passages that are special to you.

*Pray for one another that you will not be surprised if suffering (for the Lord) comes your way and that you will "commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good" (1 Pet 4:19).*