

Decision Making

Faithful decision making is an important life skill. It is worth practicing with our Sunday school and CYC kids. Practically every Bible story involves decision making. The people we meet are faced with problems. They have options. They make decisions. Some of their decisions are good and some are bad. And always there are consequences to consider. In this respect, the Bible is a case book of decision making situations to study and learn from.

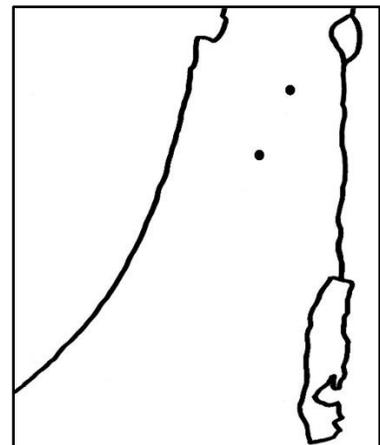
Naboth was forced to make a monumental decision by circumstances beyond his control, and he paid a high price for it. What is worth it? His story has a lot to teach us about the resolve that stands behind faithful decision making.

Naboth ... Facing Down a King 1 Kings 21 ESV

1 – 1 Kings 21:1-4.

¹ Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." ³ But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." ⁴ And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

- Label Jezreel and Samaria on the map.
- Which came first in Jezreel, Naboth's vineyard or Ahab's palace? How do you know? See Numbers 26:51-53.
- What decisions does Ahab make in this passage? Identify as many as you can.
- If you were Ahab, how would you justify these decisions?
- Naboth is forced to make one decision. What is it?
- How does Naboth justify his decision? See Numbers 36:7.
- What did Naboth's decision cost him? Read 1 Kings 21:5-16.



- Could Naboth have made an easier decision? If so, what?
- How would Naboth have benefitted from making the easier decision? Why didn't he do it?
- How do Ahab's decisions reflect on his character?
- How does Naboth's decision reflect on his character?
- What kinds of decisions does the world force you to make? List some.
- When this happens, how do you justify your decisions?

2 – Hebrews 11:37-40.

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated — ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy — wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

- We are told of two faithful men that were stoned in the Old Testament. One was Zechariah the priest (2 Chronicles 24:20-22). Who was the other?
- What inheritance is in store for these men?
- Was it worth it for Naboth to face down king Ahab the way he did? Explain.