

Elijah 4 – Naboths Vineyard

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 29th May 2012

We continue our Studies – on the life and times of Elijah – A Man of faith, fire and power, loosely following the relevant chapters in 1 and 2 Kings

As it was the Churches Birthday this last weekend it being Pentecost Sunday, I thought it would be good to spend a few minutes thinking about that and then hopefully tying it in with our thoughts on Elijah later on.

Just to put Pentecost into context it would be good to read John 14 15-27

A few weeks ago I heard someone talking about this passage and they said that Christians are often described as sailing ships, and with the sails being used to catch the Holy Spirit. He went on to say that this is all very well when the Holy Spirit seems to be visible by what it is enabling but not so good when it is not the case.

Here he said metaphorically Christians often think to themselves what is the point of putting up the sails as there is no wind, but in the olden days when there were the clipper ships – the fast sailing ships even if there did not seem to be any wind around they would still put up all their sails, just to catch even the faintest whisper. Also often there is wind blowing around at the top of the mast, which is not that visible from the deck of the ship.

The other thing he said was that once the ship caught some wind in it's top sails it would often catch more wind, as it was going along.

OK so realistically how do we put this into practice. -

Q What are the sails in our metaphorical sailing ship

A Prayer, Reading the Bible, Meeting with fellow Christians

So Moving back to our story of Elijah – Last time was all about Mount Horeb

Q Can we remember what happened there?

So Jezebel said she would kill Elijah and he ran for his life to Beersheba – Beersheba was around ninety miles from mount Carmel. Elijah was evidently feeling fed up and depressed due to

1. Physical and emotional exhaustion
2. Loneliness
3. Disappointment and Frustration
4. Blurred spiritual vision – What he thought God's plan was, was not quite the case.

Elijah goes to Mount Horeb – this is around 250 miles from Beersheba

Mount Horeb quite famous as a Holy Place Moses and the burning bush

Elijah feels he is the only Prophet left - the only person willing to stand up to the evil King

Ahab

God shows Himself as the “gentle whisper “?

Elijah calls Elisha to be his assistant – This is the same word as used to describe Joshua's role to Moses in Exodus

1. Gives him his cloak rather than anoints him
2. Elisha was probably reasonably wealthy as evidently owned the oxen and ploughing equipment so he could burn them for the feast
3. Accepting that there was no going back – burning his old way of life

So we now move on to 1 Kings 21

1-2

So Ahab planned to expand his palace and to do so needed to acquire the land next door which belonged to Naboth and was his vineyard. He started by seemingly offering a fair exchange.

Q As King why did he not just take it?

A His Royal powers were limited as laid down in the book of Deuteronomy 17 14-20

It is suggested that the King was not allowed just to take private land.

3-4

Q What do we think Naboth's reply meant? - A His inheritance meant that Naboth was convinced that the land was the Lord's and he had been granted a perpetual lease over the land.

5-7

Q Do we think Ahab's sulky behaviour was designed to get Jezebel on the case, or was she just being self centred in helping to get a larger palace, or was she being a kind helpful wife?

A The sarcasm of verse 7 gives the clue away as to her real motives

8-14

Q What was her plan of action on how to get the land?

Q What do we think about her idea of a day of fasting?

A As there had already been the drought the people were evidently very suspicious of forthcoming calamity and this was just playing into their fears.

15-16

Q Do we think that Ahab cared how Naboth was got rid of?

17-19

God tells Elijah to confront Ahab again. Q How do we think Elijah must have felt being

asked to do this?

Q Why is God saying Ahab murdered Naboth?

A Guilty of compliance with Jezebel

20-22

Q What do we think about Gods justice for Ahab?

23-26

Q What about Gods Justice for Jezebel

27-29

Q What do we think about God postponing his justice and giving it to Ahab's son. - Is it fair to punish a son for a parents wrong doing?

2 Thessalonians 1 5-12

Q Does this apply to us now?

Q If so what are we going to do about it?

To bring it back to where we started lets read John 7 37-41