

AHAB CHOOSES GREED

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1 KINGS 20:42, 43; 21:1-22

Introduction

1. The Danger of _____

2. The Danger of _____

3. The Danger of _____

4. The Danger of _____ Your _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1 . Read II Timothy 3:16, 17. What does Paul say Scripture is useful for? (Explain each term.) Are you finding it difficult to get something useful for your life out of I Kings? What has helped you do this?
- 2 . If you were given \$100,000 and required to spend it on yourself, what would you buy?
- 3 . Read I Kings 20:42, 43. What's the backstory to these verses? Why is Ahab "sullen and angry"? Read I Kings 21:1-4. How does Ahab try to medicate his moodiness?
- 4 . Give some examples of how we use money to medicate ourselves. Describe a time (doesn't have to be dramatic) when you did this. What are the downsides to this approach?
- 5 . Read I Kings 21:5-7. What did Jezebel offer to do for Ahab? Read I Kings 16:30-33. How had Jezebel previously influenced Ahab? What did Baal provide for his followers (answer in sermon)? Read Psalm 115:2-9. What's the problem with false gods like Baal?
- 6 . Do you and your spouse (or you and your friends) influence each other in the direction of getting more or giving more? Explain. Why is it often difficult for a husband and wife to get on the same page when it comes to generosity?
- 7 . Read I Kings 21:8-16. How did Jezebel get Naboth's vineyard for Ahab? Which of the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:3-17) did she break in the process?
- 8 . Make a list of misdeeds that might result from our quest for more money and material things. Describe one or two that you have noticed in your own life.
- 9 . Read I Kings 21:17-22. How did God respond to Ahab's greedy land grab? Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does God intend for us to do with the resources he's given us? What does this parable teach us about our eventual accountability in this regard?
10. What additional lessons do you learn about greed vs. generosity in Matthew 6:19-21 and I Timothy 6:9, 10, 17-19?

PRAYER PROMPT: Gratitude. A powerful way to begin living in thinking more generously is to offer prayers of gratitude to God. Take 5 minutes and list as many things as you can think of to be grateful for from this week, big (like a new job, health, or an answered prayer) or small (the taste of coffee, the feel of sunshine, your favorite book). Once you get your list, spend 5 minutes praying prayers of gratitude for those generous gifts from a good God.