

# God Sees All

## FOCUS THOUGHT

Because God sees all things, we should seek to please Him with our actions.

## ▶▶ FOCUS VERSE

### I Kings 21:20

And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.

## ▶▶ LESSON TEXT

### I Kings 21:1–7, 17–20

1 And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

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17 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.

# ▶▶▶ CULTURE CONNECTION

## A GOD OF DETAILS

Wendy's husband passed away unexpectedly while they were pastoring. After gaining the strength to move on with her life, she moved to New York. The move was a good change, and God provided her with a nursing job, at which she excelled.

Wendy's son Keith had been waiting for a heart transplant for almost four years, but he had no way of acquiring the level of care he would need after the surgery. While Wendy was in town visiting him, she asked, "Am I going to need to come here for you to get your transplant?" Keith was quite startled and in his gentle, kind way, he responded that he would never ask her to make that sacrifice.

As they were talking, the pastor walked over and joined the conversation. After hearing their conversation, the pastor told them of a recent meeting he had been in. That very week a group of church leaders had been trying to formulate a plan to get Keith the help he needed. They decided it would only work if they could somehow get Wendy to help, but she would need to quit her job and move back to the area.

Within two weeks of that conversation, Wendy was offered two jobs. Both made it possible for her to work from home and move back to help Keith through the transplant process. Within a few months, Wendy moved and Keith's transplant was a success.

God sees the needs of His people, and when we seek to please Him and care for one another, He works out all the details.

### ▶▶▶ OUTLINE

#### I. GOD IS OMNISCIENT

- A. Knows All Things
- B. His Knowledge Should Bring Us Comfort

#### II. NABOTH HAD A VINEYARD

- A. An Inheritance from His Fathers
- B. Ahab Wanted Naboth's Vineyard
- C. God Knows the Enemy Wants to Take What We Have Been Given

#### III. JEZABEL DEvised A PLAN

- A. Naboth Was Falsely Accused and Stoned
- B. Ahab Let the Injustice Happen
- C. God Knows the Enemy Will Try to Steal, Kill, and Destroy

#### IV. GOD REVEALED THE TRUTH TO ELIJAH

- A. Nothing Is Hidden from the Lord
- B. We Must Seek to Please the Lord

### ▶▶▶ CONTEMPLATING THE TOPIC

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed fervently for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but no hope was in sight. Exhausted from the effort, he finally resigned himself to living out his life on the island all alone.

Eventually he managed to build a little hut out of driftwood for protection from the elements and to store his few possessions. One day after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. Just when he thought things could not possibly get any worse, they did. Suddenly everything he had was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me?" he cried. He simply could not believe God would allow this to happen to him with all that had already gone wrong in his life.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. He could hear its foghorn blaring from beyond the coastline. Soon a small group of sailors

arrived in a rowboat. They had come to rescue him. “How did you know I was here?” the weary man asked the sailors. “We saw your smoke signal,” they replied.

It is easy for us to forget that God sees what we do not see. Our human eyesight is limited by barriers, walls, doors, and horizons. In our humanity we may forget God is not limited by what limits us. Regardless of how bad life gets at times, we need to remember that God sees it all and is working for our good beyond what we can see.

## »» SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

### I. GOD IS OMNISCIENT

It used to be that if we were assigned a research paper in school, we would go to the library and pull books off the shelf for research. We were limited only by the number of books available.

Today we simply search Google for a topic, and more resources are at our disposal than we could possibly ever read through. Computer technology and the internet have expanded our ability to acquire information and knowledge, almost beyond comprehension. Even at that, we are finite and are limited in what we actually know. The smartest among us still does not know everything there is to know.

But God is omniscient. There is nothing unknown to Him. He knows what Google knows and even more. Isaiah 40:13–14 states, “Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?” (NIV).

#### A. Knows All Things

*Omniscience* is defined as “the state of having total knowledge; the quality of knowing everything.” For God to truly be sovereign over His creation, He has to be all knowing. The Bible tells us His knowledge is so vast, He even knows the minutest details, like the number of hairs on your head or every time a sparrow falls to the ground. No detail is so small that God does not know it. No knowledge or thought is so deep that it is beyond Him.

Psalms 139:15–16 declares to us just how omniscient God is when it comes to our person: “My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them” (ESV). Can you imagine that? Before you were even formed, God knew the design of the days that would be in your future. We make our plans and think we know what we are going to do or what is going to happen. But really, only God knows with certainty what tomorrow holds.

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» *Does the fact that God knows everything bring you fear or bring you comfort? Explain.*

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## **B. His Knowledge Should Bring Us Comfort**

Realizing God knows everything should be the source of security and comfort for us. The foundation of our faith is based on the facts that God does not change and that God knows everything. The reason you can trust Him is because He knows everything. According to Hebrews 4:13, nothing is hidden from God: “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

While for some this would be a reason to tremble in fear, to those who are born again and are faithfully serving Him, it is a comfort. Just to know God sees everything, no matter how hidden it is to the eyes of man, means God is aware at all times of what is happening to each of us. His knowledge of what we do not know means He has answers and solutions that we will never find on our own.

## **II. NABOTH HAD A VINEYARD**

I Kings 21:1–13 tells of a man named Naboth who owned a vineyard. Owning land meant a certain amount of security for the person and the person’s family. A vineyard in that day would have been of great value due to the demand for wine for both common people as well as the military. Great value would be placed on such a piece of land, not only for what it produced presently, but also for what it would provide in the future.

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» *Is there something you own that gives you a certain sense of security because you own it?*

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### **A. An Inheritance from His Fathers**

In ancient times many people did not own land but would farm land and sell whatever was produced on the land. Considering that the majority of people were not wealthy and had limited means, if a man owned property, he would be considered much better off than the man who merely farmed the land of someone else.

In this case, Naboth had inherited the vineyard. This means he understood the worth and the price that had been paid for it by his forefathers. Not only was there value in the land itself, but it would also have had significant emotional value to him and his family. The vineyard was not something to treat casually or sell off just to make life easier.

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» *What things have you inherited that have great value to you?*

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### **B. Ahab Wanted Naboth’s Vineyard**

God is a merciful God. Ahab should have known this better than most. In I Kings 20 God extended mercy to Ahab during a time when it seemed Ahab would be defeated by Ben-hadad, king of Syria. The Lord told Ahab that victory would be his in spite of how much it looked like things would not go his way.

After God brought His word to pass, evidently something changed inside of Ahab. Instead of being thankful for what God had preserved, Ahab began to selfishly desire

the vineyard of Naboth, which was located next to the palace. Ahab wanted to turn it into a vegetable garden instead of a vineyard.

He offered Naboth a certain price, which Naboth refused. Instead of simply accepting no as an answer, Ahab became despondent and depressed. He should have been content with what he already had, but his greed caused him to be consumed with what he did not have.

### **C. God Knows the Enemy Wants to Take What We Have Been Given**

We need to remember that God sees all. He knows we have an adversary who is roaming about, seeking whom he may devour. Our enemy not only wants to devour us, but he wants to devour any good thing God brings into our lives.

The blessings of life that we have, our walk with God, and our families are all precious and valuable. Many of these blessings are a part of our spiritual inheritance. The devil would like nothing better than to bargain them away from us. And if we are not willing to make a bargain, he will do everything he can to destroy us. God sees everything and knows this about our enemy. Nothing is hidden from God, even the plans of our enemy.

## **III. JEZEBEL DEvised A PLAN**

When Ahab returned home, he was distraught, refused to eat, and spent most of his time in bed with his face turned toward the wall. Jezebel noticed this and asked him, “Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?” (1 Kings 21:5).

### **A. Naboth Was Falsely Accused and Stoned**

Ahab was quick to tell her of Naboth’s refusal to sell the vineyard. Being the evil person she was, Jezebel took it upon herself to devise a plan to kill Naboth and give the vineyard to Ahab. She instructed Ahab to get up and cheer up. She told him she would take care of everything.

Her plan involved writing devious letters and signing Ahab’s name to them. The plot was carefully laid out to call an assembly and have Naboth accused of blasphemy. The tragic result was he was carried outside of the city and stoned to death.

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» *Have you ever been unjustly accused of something? How did you feel?*

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### **B. Ahab Let the Injustice Happen**

Perhaps one of the most intriguing aspects of the story is that Ahab silently sat back and let a good man be put to death in order to fulfill his own selfish desires. No doubt Ahab knew that what was being done was wrong. He also knew God had blessed him by giving him victory over his enemies. Yet he overrode all of that and allowed an injustice to occur.

### **C. God Knows the Enemy Will Try to Steal, Kill, and Destroy**

Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” God is ever aware that the enemy of our souls will do anything he can to keep us from succeeding at living for God.

The enemy may approach us with kindness, offering to bargain with us for what is valuable. He may even offer a high premium for us to sell out. The Lord knows the struggle the flesh has with temptation. His response to the temptation of the devil in the wilderness is still the best approach we can take. Our response should be to appeal to the Word of God and say, “It is written.”

II Corinthians 2:11 tells us we are not ignorant of the devices of the enemy. Through the leading of the Spirit, God makes us aware of the approach of the enemy in our lives. Naboth was a great example of standing his ground and not yielding to the devices of the enemy when tempted.

### **IV. GOD REVEALED THE TRUTH TO ELIJAH**

Unknown to Naboth, God would reveal all of this to the prophet Elijah. Just because Naboth had lost his life did not mean God would turn a blind eye to what Ahab and Jezebel had done.

The Lord revealed to Elijah what Ahab had done and where Elijah could find Ahab—in Naboth’s vineyard enjoying the spoils of his evil actions. A swift and terrible judgment was pronounced by the man of God to Ahab. Elijah told Ahab that because of the great evil he had done, he would lose his prosperity and dogs would lick up his blood in the same place where they licked the blood of Naboth after his stoning.

#### **A. Nothing Is Hidden from the Lord**

Ahab and Jezebel failed to realize that nothing is hidden from the Lord. I Corinthians 4:5 declares, “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.” In other words, God sees all; nothing is hidden from Him. He will bring out in the light those things that were formed against us in the darkness. Once they are exposed, He will execute judgment on them.

Regardless of what we have gone through, God has not turned a blind eye toward us. He sees everything. The pain and suffering we endure has not slipped by Him unnoticed. God is ever aware and will not let such things go unpunished.

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» *Can you think of a situation where you observed someone doing evil while acting as if God was not watching?*

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#### **B. We Must Seek to Please the Lord**

Our desire must be to please the Lord. Naboth took no thought for the wealth that could have been gained by selling the vineyard. Rather, he was more concerned with what was pleasing to the Lord. God not only sees the evil acts of our enemy, He also

sees the righteous acts of our own hearts. While the enemy will be judged for his evil, we will be blessed for our righteousness.

Proverbs 16:8 tells us, “Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.” Naboth was more content with a vineyard that produced what it did and having a righteous heart than he ever would have been by selling out just for money.

### INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

In Psalm 139:7 the psalmist asked the questions, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” In many ways such questions are rhetorical. The psalmist knew there was nowhere he could go where God would not see him.

The same is true for us today. God sees all. Nothing is hidden from Him. To the sinner this could be a frightening proposition. But to the faithful it is one of the greatest comforts we can know in this life. The knowledge that God watches over everything that happens to us should bring us great confidence in Him.

There will be times when others will treat us unjustly. It will hurt and could cause us to turn aside from trusting God. However, the story of Naboth should be an encouragement to us that God will not allow evil to go unnoticed or unpunished. He is faithful to those who are faithful to Him.