

Order of Worship: Sunday, July 27, 2025

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: In what ways are we "owned" by what we own? What is our relationship to our possessions? This morning Maurice will consider 2 stories from which we can draw many lessons for our Christian lives. These stories are very relevant when we consider issues of poverty and affluence in our time and as presented by the media.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #102 HWB - To God be the glory

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: 1 Kings 21 (NIV) *Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth." But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my ancestors." So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my ancestors." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.*

His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?" He answered her, "Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, 'Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. In those letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death." So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them. They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people. Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, "Naboth has cursed both God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death.

Then they sent word to Jezebel: "Naboth has been stoned to death." As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead." When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth's vineyard.

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. Say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!'" Ahab said to Elijah, "So you have found me, my enemy!" "I have found you," he answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD. He says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will make your house like that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you

have aroused My anger and have caused Israel to sin.’ “And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ “Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country.” (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.)

When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly. Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

Hymn: #417 VT - Seek Ye First

Scripture: Luke 16:19-31 (NIV) Dianne P - *“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.*

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Message: Possessed by possessions ~ Maurice Martin

Hymn of Response: #367 HWB - For the healing of the nations

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #843 VT - May the peace of Christ

Benediction

Postlude

****Please join us downstairs for congregation discussion/coffee time.**

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**Announcements**

**KE Church will be using the church building** on Saturdays for the month of August (2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd) from 9am-6pm for a Youth Bible Day Camp.

**Sunday, August 3, 10:00 am Please join our next long weekend Wilmot Ignited** joint worship service at Wilmot Mennonite Church The service will include a drama production by Arlyn Friesen Epp entitled Spirit Acts: A Monologue based on Acts 1-12.

You can join virtually by using the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9761314898?pwd=eHR2SE5pNWdlenJFTXVSZUhoNHpkQT09>

Hillcrest Meeting ID: 976 131 4898 Password: 1964)

**Rockway invites everyone to join in the fun** this **Sept 13 & 14!** Whether you buy tickets for our *Food Market Fundraiser*, or join in on one of the other FREE events (including a *Hymn Sing!*), go to [rockway.ca/events](http://rockway.ca/events) to learn more about how we're celebrating 80 years.

**Rockway Mennonite Collegiate invites you to help PROTECT THIS BARN.** Visit [www.rockway.ca/campaign](http://www.rockway.ca/campaign) to watch our video and learn how we are celebrating our 80th Anniversary by upgrading some of our facilities. The full list is on the website. We've already reached 70% of our goal, but we need your help to reach 100% by the Fall! Thank you for supporting Rockway.

**Save the Date: Sunday, September 21,** 3 pm: "Music for MCC Meat Cannery". Come enjoy vocal and instrumental music offered by a variety of people. Concert will be held in the Steinmann Mennonite Church sanctuary. Cost by donation – all proceeds going to MCC Meat Cannery. Everyone is welcome.

**Upcoming Worship Services:**

July 27 - Maurice Martin

Aug 3 - Joint service at Wilmot

Aug 10 - Charlene Jongejan Harder

Aug 17 - Charlene Jongejan Harder

Aug 24 - Pastor Jim

Aug 31 - Pastor Jim

Wilmot Ignited joint services

Aug 3 - Wilmot

Aug 31 - St. Agatha

Oct 5 -

Dec 28 - Mannheim