

UNDER PRESSURE

Bring it on,

MONDAY

Groovy, it's

TUESDAY

Be ...

bold

So, here's the story ...

Naboth had a vineyard. King Ahab wanted it from him, but Naboth wouldn't sell it.

Ahad was really upset about it. Ahab's wife, Queen Jezebel said, "Aren't you the king? Stop being so torn up over this. I'll take care of it."

So she pretended to be Ahab and wrote letters to the leaders in Naboth's city.

She instructed them to set Naboth up and get two men to lie about him and have them say that he blasphemed God and the king. That way, by law, they could kill him, which is what they did. Jezebel went to Ahab and said, "Take the vineyard, because Naboth is dead."

And the Word of God came to Elijah the prophet, telling him to go down to meet Ahab the king of Israel in Samaria. "Say, so says God, have you killed and also taken possession? You will die as Naboth did. You have sold yourself to work evil in the sight of God. God will bring evil on you and will take away those after you. You have provoked God to anger, and made Israel to sin."

God also spoke about Jezebel, saying that she would die a shameful death.

There was none like Ahab, who sold himself to work wickedness in the sight of God, whom his wife Jezebel stirred up. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites did, whom God cast out before the sons of Israel.

When Ahab heard all this, he was very sorry. And the Word of God came to Elijah, saying, "See how Ahab humbles himself before Me? Because he humbles himself before Me, I will not bring evil in his days, but (justice will come) later on."

Read the story for yourself in 1 Kings 21

Take it to God

Ask God to help you be bold when you're facing pressure from others to do things that you know aren't right.

Halfway there
WEDNESDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

You wanna be ...

steadfast
committed;
devoted;
dependable; reliable;
loyal; dedicated

or

coerced
pressured; bullied;
intimidated; forced



'Do not be misled:
Bad company corrupts good character.'

1 Corinthians 15:33

Throw your hands up
THURSDAY

A.M.

Noon

P.M.

Eve

Make a difference ...

Step up:

Don't allow yourself to be sucked into bad behavior just because others are willing to go along for the ride. Be the voice of reason; just walk away if you have to.

Take it up a notch:

There may be people in your life that are really bad influences. For your best interest, it may be time to separate yourself from their influence. Don't start talking bad about them or treating them wrong, just distance yourself — don't let that troublemaking behavior rub off on you. And if they want to know why you won't hang around or participate in their antics, be nice but firm and tell them the truth. Don't make up lies to make them think something else, and don't be mean about it. Have a conversation. Have someone talk to them with you if you are nervous about it.

Poll your friends ...

Do you give in easily and let others run the show (make all the plans or decisions)?

Yes

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No

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Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on the earth. Read about one of them here:

Matthew 9:27-31

FRIDAY

Bad is worse when you cave in to pressure



WEEKEND

WoodHoo!

A.M.

Sat.

Noon

P.M.

Sun.

Eve

Why is it that bad influences always seem to have more power than good influences? Too often, people tend to follow the road to trouble instead of choosing the way that will keep them safe and secure on the right track. I think it's easy to be bad because it feels so natural to do it. And there's a reason for that.

When God's first people (Adam and Eve) were on the earth they made a bad choice, falling for the devil's lies. So, from then on, everyone born on the earth was birthed into a world of sin. So, sinning (doing wrong when you know it's wrong) is like second nature to us. God warns that easy road is not a path worth taking.

In Matthew 7:13-14, it says, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Basically that means we are always going to have to make a special effort on purpose to keep doing right — and that doing wrong will come super easy to us.

Making a bad choice is trouble enough, but sometimes it's an innocent mistake or misstep. But when you choose to do wrong, that's worse, because you saw the red flag, you knew to turn away from it, but you didn't.

Did you know?

On the upside of this unfortunate news that being bad is easy and being good takes a lot of hard work, we can find comfort in knowing that there is not a single thing (or lifetime of things) that we can do that would make us too far gone for God to reach us if we call to Him. He forgives those who repent (turn away from their sins, and forgive others) and loves unconditionally. His children lean on Him for everything and trust Him through faith. He is faithful and mighty and holy and good — always.

So, let's wrap it up



*Vicky's
view*

King Ahab was not a good man, but after his failed attempt to grab Naboth's property, he seemed like he was just going to sulk for awhile at home.

Jezebel was the real troublemaker. She plotted and did shady things to snatch that vineyard from Naboth, even going so far as to get some sketchy guys to accuse him of things he didn't do, which ended up getting him killed. It was all part of her plan to get her husband what he wanted.

And the story doesn't tell us that Ahab had any regrets or misgivings about his wife's schemes. I guess since she got him what he was after, he wasn't too worried about how she pulled it off.

Even though Jezebel was

clearly the main culprit in the evil plan, Ahab was just as guilty because he went along with it. He said nothing to stop her when she told him she would get it for him — and nothing again after the deed was done.

At the very end, Ahab did prove he honestly felt terrible about the whole thing and God forgave him, but Jezebel wasn't sorry, and she ended up dying just like the prophet Elijah said she would.

Remember, there were others involved in the plot, as well. The two accusers could have stood firm and refused to play along, but they were crooks and apparently were up for the nonsense. Jezebel probably paid them handsomely for their effort. Also, the elders

and nobles of the city who followed her instructions in the letters she wrote — they didn't make a fuss either. It could be they were tricked because she had signed Ahab's name to the letters and they simply did not question the king's edicts, but even if he had been behind the order it was still wrong and they could have stepped up to say so.

We all have the ability to do right. It doesn't matter one bit if anybody else does it or not. We can only control our own choices.

And we are accountable for them. We can't hide behind excuses like "everybody else is doing it," or "they got away with it," or "I didn't have a choice."

It may not be a popular or

easy one, sure, but there is always a choice. Don't fool yourself into thinking there isn't.

Don't let the Jezebels of this world get you caught up in a hot mess like the one Ahab allowed himself to be involved in. And there were plenty of other instances where he went along for the ride on the troublemaker's coat tails. It was a habit of his.

If you learn anything from Ahab and Jezebel, it should be that we are all in control of our own decisions. And just because someone else makes a decision — if you know what they're up to and you go along with it, that's the same thing as making the decision yourself to do it.

Ponder this:

How many times have your friends talked you into doing something you didn't want to do this week?

Something good that happened this week was:

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank)

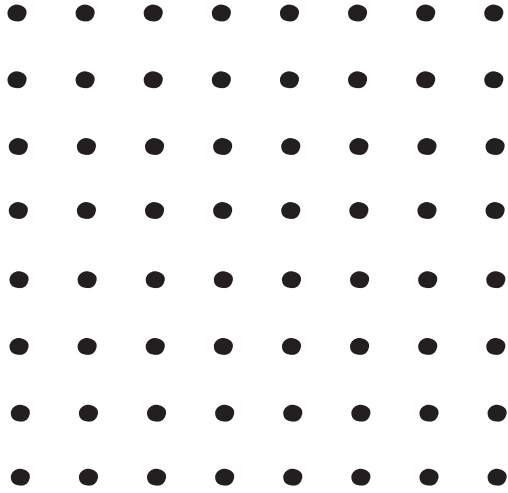
has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

Let's read:

1 Kings 21

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

loved

Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



R E S F U N
 U E I E F O
 R H S K O T
 G T T A E H
 E T O M R S

answer on page 331

Matthew 7:7

answer on page 315

B	S	S	E	N	D	E	K	C	I	W	O
Y	A	C	A	L	V	M	U	R	D	E	R
M	C	N	O	I	S	S	E	S	S	O	P
E	K	R	L	U	J	E	Z	E	B	E	L
N	C	S	H	E	N	A	B	O	T	H	M
E	L	I	J	A	H	D	E	N	O	T	S
H	O	N	O	R	A	I	R	A	M	A	S
J	T	G	O	D	R	A	Y	E	N	I	V
W	H	U	M	B	L	E	D	B	L	I	T

- NABOTH
- POSSESSION
- DOG
- JEZEBEL
- SAMARIA
- WICKEDNESS
- SHE
- MURDER
- IT
- HONOR
- EVIL
- SACKCLOTH
- VINEYARD
- ENEMY
- ELIJAH
- STONED
- SCOUNDREL
- HUMBLED

Doodle Box

Discover

