



Devo for Feb.1-8, 2025 / When the Fire Falls, Wk 5

"Capacity for Evil"

Evil in Our World & Our Hearts

Evil in this world can be unbearable. It is astonishing to see what we are capable of doing to one another—wars, betrayals, oppression, and deception. But we cannot be naïve about evil. It exists, and it seeks to manipulate, destroy, and enslave. We also cannot be naïve about our own capacity for evil. The sobering truth is that the line between righteousness and wickedness does not merely separate "good" people from "bad" people; it runs through each of our hearts. The more we grow in Christ, the more we realize our desperate need for confession. The story of Ahab and Jezebel provides a tragic illustration of what happens when evil is entertained, tolerated, and ultimately embraced.

The Slow Fade – 1 Kings 16:31-33

Ahab's downfall began when he treated sin as a "light thing." It is easy to recognize the wickedness in others, but we must also ask ourselves: Are there sins in our own lives that we have begun to justify or ignore? **Reflect:**

- What were the **first steps** Ahab took toward wickedness?
- Why do small **compromises** lead to greater sins?
- Are there areas in your life where sin has become a **"light thing"**?

Selling Ourselves - 1 Kings 21:25-26

Wickedness is not just something that happens outside of us. Ahab sold himself to it. He willingly exchanged his integrity, his faith, and his soul for temporary power and approval. **Reflect:**

- What does it mean to **"sell oneself"** to wickedness?
- **What are ways** in which people today "sell themselves" to wickedness?
- What steps can you take to **ensure you are not** selling your soul to things that lead you away from God?

The Counsel and Way of the Wicked – 1 Kings 21:4-10

Who do we listen to? Ahab was already drifting toward wickedness, but Jezebel incited him further. Evil loves company, and those who entertain wickedness will always find voices encouraging them deeper into destruction.

Reflect:

- How did Jezebel **lead Ahab** deeper into sin?
- Where do you get **your counsel**? Who is influencing you?

- Charles Spurgeon said, “The more holy a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him.” Are you **surrounding yourself** with people who mourn sin or justify it?

The Destiny of the Wicked – 1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:30-37

Evil may seem to reign for a time, but ultimately, it leads to destruction. Jezebel’s fate was gruesome and humiliating. She lived a life of manipulation, corruption, and rebellion against God, and in the end, she died as a symbol and warning that no rebellion against God will go unjudged. **Reflect:**

- What does this tell us about **God’s justice**?
- How should the **certainty** of God’s judgment affect how you live today?

The Spirit of Wickedness (Jezebel) – Revelation 2:20-21

The spirit of Jezebel is not just an Old Testament issue. Jesus rebukes the church in Revelation for tolerating this same spirit—one that seduces, manipulates, and leads people away from truth. Wickedness does not only corrupt individuals—it corrupts entire communities. **Reflect:**

- How does the spirit of Jezebel operate in **today’s world**?
- Are there ways you have **tolerated sin** instead of confronting it?
- **What steps** can you take to remove ungodly influences from your life?

Our Response: Repent

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” –1

John 1:9 Evil is not just an external problem—it is an **internal one**. While we see wickedness in culture and corruption in leadership, we must also examine our own hearts. **Take 5 minutes** to reflect on these Next Steps:

- ✓ **Identify:** Where have you allowed sin to become a “light thing” in your life?
- ✓ **Repent:** Turn away from it and confess it before God.
- ✓ **Resist:** Stand against evil, both personally and in the world around you.
- ✓ **Reform:** Seek to replace compromise with truth, justice, and holiness.

Final Reflection

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” –Psalm 139:23-24 May we not be naïve to the evil around us—or the evil within us. May we humble ourselves, confess our sins, and walk in the grace and mercy of God.