

**Jezebel**

Jezebel by all accounts was an incredibly wicked woman as recorded in 1 and 2 Kings. She was the daughter of the king of Sidon who married Ahab the king of Israel. As a domineering wife and a zealous worshipper of Baal she easily converted her husband to her belief system, leading the nation deeply into idolatry (1 Kings 16:31) and inciting him to “work wickedness in the sight of the Lord” (1 Kings 21:25). She had no toleration for other religions, ordering the prophets of God to be killed on sight (1 Kings 18:4). Her ruthless lust for power is pictured in her cruel treatment of a local landowner named Naboth who she had framed and had stoned to death so that Ahab could legally take possession of this man’s land (1 Kings 21:15).

There is nothing to like about Jezebel. Yet God loved her so much that He sent Elijah to call both Jezebel and her husband to repent of their unbelief. Elijah told Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word” (1 Kings 17:1). This drought was to let Ahab and Jezebel know that the altars and groves they had set up for Baal worship in Israel were wrong (1 Kings 16:32, 33). The punishment was not meant to drive them away from God but to draw them unto Him. After three years and 6 months (James 5:17) God brought the rains but only after Elijah had a showdown with the prophets of Baal. Elijah gathered the people and all the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel where he challenged the people to choose between Baal and God, “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). All witnessed God’s power when His fire consumed the water-soaked sacrifice (1 Kings 18:38) while the 450 prophets could not get Baal to do a thing (1 Kings 18:29). The people “fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God” (1 Kings 18:39) while Ahab hastened to Jezreel to inform Jezebel.

When Jezebel learned of the defeat of Baal on Mount Carmel she hardened her heart, refusing to repent. In a

rage she vowed to slay Elijah as he had done to the 450 prophets of Baal, “Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time” (1 Kings 19:2). Her vow was fulfilled some years later as she was killed by Jehu and eaten by dogs (2 Kings 9:30-36). She defiantly passed up yet one more call from God right before she was killed when Jehu asked, “Who is on my side? Who? (2 Kings 9:32).

If all that we conclude from this is that the deeds of even a few people can lead whole nations astray, we would miss God’s plan of salvation which is clearly illustrated in the story of Jezebel. Scripture tells us of God’s love toward all people and of how He wants all to be saved and none to be lost, “Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: *and* not that he should return from his ways, and live?” (Ezekiel 18:23). Although God called Jezebel many times, it was Jezebel who rejected God and not the other way around, “I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not” (Revelation 2:21). God warns us also that we will suffer the same eternal fate as Jezebel unless we answer God’s call, repent and gladly receive the spoken word of reconciliation.

God’s Peace,

**Charles Korhonen  
Worship Schedule**

May 5	Ken Storm	11:00	Holy Communion
May 12	Jim Johnson	11:00	
May 19	Charles Korhonen	11:00	Last day of Sunday School
May 22	Semi-Annual Meeting	7pm	
May 26	Nathan Ruonavaara	11:00	

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**Looking ahead:** Church will begin at 10am for the summer beginning in June.  
Our Sunday School Picnic will be on June 30<sup>th</sup> at Twin Lakes State Park. All are welcome!

**We are on the web!** Each newsletter is archived, sermons, and the church schedule may be found on our website:  
<http://www.tapiolachurch.org>

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