

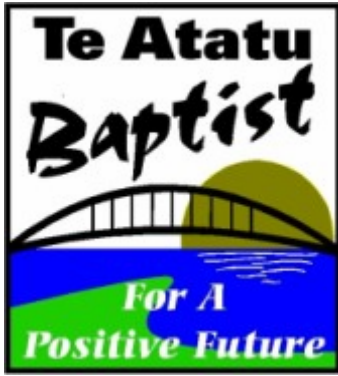
With wings *of an eagle*

Part 4 of 12

Jezebel

The appetite for controlling others!





Full credit given to: To Run and Not Grow Tired:
By Fran Sciacca. Navpress – Navigators 1991

Ps Roger Spackman
May 2008

www.TeAtatuBaptist.com

Welcome to our *fourth* Interactive Bible Study – With Wings of an Eagle!

How many of us know – this is another day *that the Lord has made!*

We are meant to *rejoice* in this day!

Because – God is good – and He is good *all* the time!

Sometimes our situations might *not* be good – and it's easy to think –
'Well – where is God in all this???'

Slide # 2

But – it's great to come back to that core fact,
that God **IS** good – and He is good *all the time!*

Even when my circumstances might *not* be
going the right way, I can still know *that God is*
good – and He **IS** directing my steps!

And God can turn any situation around and
make it good.

In fact – that’s His job – that’s His passion and His focus - to redeem, to restore, to heal and to deliver!

Our God IS a *good* God today!

And God has a bright and positive future ahead for each and every one of use here *today*.

No matter what has happened in the past – today can be a new *beginning*, a new *chapter* in our lives.

We are about to look at a most fascinating Bible character by the name of **Jezebel** – and the appetite for *controlling* others.

But first up – let’s get past the *gender* issue of controlling others!

We could *replace* the name Jezebel with just as many, if not *more* male gender names 😊

So – today I am going to absolutely shower you with *truth and wisdom* from the Spirit of God – and for that reason I suggest you obtain a copy of today’s Bible Workshop – freely available in the foyer each Sunday *before* the service begins.

While I fully believe in the *leading* of the Holy Spirit, for me – He *mainly* leads me as I engage in stringent study, research, prayer and investigation *during the week in my office* as I prepare and write these Bible Workshops.

This has many advantages, one of which is the 18,000 printed booklets we have freely given away over the last eight years to our friends, and neighbours....

...not to mention the 1,300 successful requests our church website gets each and every day of the year!

So on the topic of Jezebel – *the appetite for controlling others* - our Abiding Principle for today is this:

Slide # 3

You are responsible to teach others how to treat you – and with just a few tools – you can forever keep yourself safe – and also stop people manipulating or bullying you – no matter *who* they are or *how* powerful they seem to be!

I am *very* excited about today's Interactive Bible Workshop!

In fact – I want to help *bullet-proof* you against other people who might try and manipulate, dominate, emotionally blackmail or abuse you throughout your life.

(And don't tell anyone, but there are also many keys and tools to help those of us who find *ourselves* trying, wanting to, or *fighting to resist* the drive to manipulate and control others.)

These skills are directly *transferable* – where you can take them and impart them to your loved ones, your children and friends.

These are skills that few people learn, and many others take advantage of!

The goal of Debbie and me in *pastoral ministry* is to help each of you along the journey of reaching spiritual *and* emotional maturity.

Slide # 4

And we've shared this important insight with you many times – that spiritual and emotional maturity are inseparable twin sisters.

That means – that as we reach new heights in our *spiritual* life and understanding.

As we discover the rich promises and resources available to us through the Lord Jesus Christ – His amazing and underserved grace and love...

...that we also need to place *equal* energy and resources into ensuring our emotional life and character *matches* our spiritual growth.

We need to develop an enormous amount of *self-awareness* – so that we are able to place *boundaries* and *safeguards* around our spiritual fervour, devotion and enthusiasm.

Slide # 5

And to be honest, we only need a *few* insights, a *few* truths to keep us safe and balanced!

For me, I had to learn that *although my emotions might be real, that doesn't always make them true.*

I am a very spiritually sensitive person, and to keep myself balanced and safe, *I must immerse myself in truth and wisdom.*

As a rescuer – I have had to come to realise that by rescuing others, I was trying to rescue *myself* from the pain of my past.

Eventually I had to come to the place of inner healing and freedom, and then realising that I am not responsible for the *negative* emotions and reactions of others!

Neither can I *control* how others think, talk or feel about who I am as a person.

I am a mature adult, whole and complete as a son of the Living God!

And if God be for me – then *who* and *what* can be against me!

Amen!

I had to decide once and for all, that my *survival as an adult* is no longer in jeopardy!

That as a child I was an excellent recorder of events, but a very poor interpreter!

I had to examine my childhood survival kits and protective barriers, allowing the grace, wisdom and truth of God to set me free!

I had to learn to replace what I thought about myself, with what God thinks of me.

And also, I had to learn that although the Bible is inspired, and it is truth – that it is NOT God, and by placing it as equal with God – I had produced an idol, and increased the Trinity to four – creating instead a Quadity of my own making.

However, I also had to understand that *too much self-analysis can lead to paralysis!*

You see, being a pastor and a teacher is a position of *much* responsibility, power and *enormous* influence.

But, let me ask you a question.

Who gives me the power and authority to be your pastor and teacher?

I am sure your first answer is 'God'.

But you know, while God may give me the *motivation* and *focus* – He is *not* actually the one who gives me the authority.

You are the *only ones* who give me the authority to be your pastor!

You've each had to come to a place – or are on a journey where you must make a decision - where you can say, 'Yes – I trust Roger enough to lend him *my* trust – and because of that – I give him the power and authority to be my pastor.'

In fact, it's no different to being a parent.

The truth is, that your authority to be a parent *doesn't* come from God.

If you think it does, you run the risk of over-powering and manipulating your children.

The only power *you* have to be a parent – is *given* to you by your children.

Don't believe me – then look at the family where a child has decided to *stop* allowing their parents to be their parents!

Believe me – you soon realise where your power to be a parent comes from!

And the only thing you can do in a situation like this, is to sit down with your child and ask them what it is that you *have* or *haven't* done to cause them to *stop trusting you*.

And here's a key, a test to see how emotionally and spiritually mature you are – perhaps even a goal for you to work towards.

This will help dissolve your prejudices and cause you to live in true freedom and grace.

You see – there are some things that I hold – and teach *as absolutes*.

The temptation is to be *dogmatic* – even *prejudiced*.

This is what I believe, and it is absolute truth!

I've even said to others, that it doesn't matter *what* they think or believe about a specific subject we are discussing – because what I believe is the truth!

However – how come I am allowed to think that way – but not allow the other person that the same privilege to think that way also???

That I can hold to absolutes and expect *others* to accept them, but I am unwilling for those with opposing views to also hold those views as absolutes.

That – my brothers and sisters – is *domination* and *abuse!!!*

Some people call it *arrogance*.

Slide # 6

And nearly nine centuries before Christ – this attitude was personified by the name of the wife of King Ahab – ruler of Israel – who married the daughter of a pagan king.

And her name was???

Jezebel!

You see, Jezebel manipulated everyone whom she came into contact with!

She repeatedly defied the Word of the Lord spoken through the prophet Elijah.

Jezebel *always* got her way – and woe to those unfortunate enough to get in her way!

Her happiness depended on her ability to *manipulate* and *control* others.

And as such, she abided forever within the record of Scripture as an embodiment of a power-hungry and unteachable heart.!

Okay, let's look briefly at the people and events that Jezebel manipulated, and I want you to tell me what methods of control she used:

Slide # 7

The prophets of God in 1 Kings 18:3-4

For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

How did Jezebel deal with these people/prophets she didn't like?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Slide # 8

The false prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18:19

"Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

.....
.....
.....
.....

Slide # 9

The Elders at Jezreel in 1 Kings 21:5-14

But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

6 He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

7 Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

8 And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.

9 She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people;

10 and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

11 So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them.

12 They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

13 And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then

they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

.....
.....
.....
.....

Slide # 10

What about her husband king Ahab, in 1 Kings 21:7 - 7 Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

Verse 15-16

15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

Verse 25

25 But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.

.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
Slide # 11

Elijah the prophet of God in 1 Kings 18:40 40
And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Chapter 19:1-4; 1 ¶ And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.
2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."
3 And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.
4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Slide # 12

You see – Jezebel could easily have written the book on The Art of Intimidation!

She actually enjoyed slamming her hand on the chessboard of life and watching the pieces jump and scatter at her beck and call!

Jezebel's life also stands as an extreme warning to us about the temptations facing people in positions of authority of any kind.

And although very few of us will ever experience the position of power and authority that Jezebel had – each of us never the less has a sinful tendency to misuse and abuse power over others.

On the other hand, Jesus has made it abundantly clear through His teachings and actions that godly authority comes from a serving hearts, rather than lording it over others.

Now here's where the rubber really meets the road, and I need to tap into the vast resources of wisdom in this place today!

Slide # 13

How aware do you think Jezebel was of her hurtful and manipulating actions?

Slide # 14

Why wasn't she bothered about how she hurt others?

Slide # 15

Is this a story about a domineering woman, or about weak men?

Slide # 16

How do you treat – react to a person who tries to dominate you?

Just to give you some traction, here are some tried and tested ways to stop other people manipulating, bullying or pressuring you through life – even in the church!

Slide # 17

You see, it's been said that everybody either has a problem, is a problem p or lives with a problem!!!

Some people however, like Jezebel – are particularly difficult to live with.

Where does their domineering spirit come from?

Slide # 18

Well – ever since their heart was bruised, over-indulged, or basic trust was lost/abused (through events that were not of their choosing), this domineering, egotistical person has been trying to live on no other terms than their own.

Sometimes this is for an entirely *understandable* reason, as last time they trusted someone, they were horribly hurt.

Slide # 19

So, in this person, coloured glasses, projections (where they project past pain or emotions onto anyone who looks like, or reminds them of the original situation – often without even realising it), emotional based reasoning, echoes, and unbearable feelings – all these things are mixed together – resulting in a person who digests, believes and acts out a whole lot of toxic religion and emotional sewerage.

I could go into this a whole lot deeper, but that is beyond the purpose of today's Bible Workshop.

So, I want to leave you with a couple of empowering questions.

Empowering questions are questions which are designed to make you think – and in thinking – find answers and healing.

Slide # 20

Why is it that some people can handle the truth,
and others can't?

Slide # 21

What resources does the flexible, compliant
person have – that the rigid control freak does
not?

Slide # 22

Why will an emotionally stunted person punish
you for speaking the truth in love to them about
their behaviour or attitudes?

For all of us, I want to give us a good measuring stick for our own
emotional health and growth.

Actually, this tool is as beautiful as it is true.

Slide # 23

The number one key to our emotional maturity
and health, is how personally we take the
criticisms of others.

So – does all this sound like someone you know???

Slide # 24

Just be careful – because one of the characteristics of the emotional insecure or dominating is the inability to see this trait within themselves :-)

So – maybe another little self-test is in order:

Slide # 25

1 - Have you really understood the sovereignty of those you love? Does your *love for them* benefit them, or is it really just for yourself?

Slide # 26

2 – Are you teachable? (Manipulating people are not!)

Slide # 27

3 – Can you be truly vulnerable and listen to the truth about yourself? (Emotionally insecure controlling people cannot!)

Slide # 28

4 – Do you have negotiation skills (i.e. compromising skills)? (Control freaks can not!)

So, remember our Abiding Principle for today:

Slide # 29

You are responsible to teach others how to treat you – and with just a few tools – you can forever keep yourself safe – and also stop people manipulating or bullying you – no matter *who* they are or *how* powerful they seem to be!

God is on your side today!

He loves you so much that He would rather die than live without you!

May God's Holy Spirit impart into your heart and mind – a true revelation of who you are in Him – and who God has created you to be.

May your self identity, your self awareness and self image be replaced, renewed and restored to your identity, awareness and image of who each of you *really* are.

Beloved sons and daughters of Almighty God – Creator of the universe.

Slide # 30

Your happiness in life will come, as you are able to replace your own mindset and understanding – with the mindset and understanding of the Beloved One who created you – and knows you better than you know yourself.

Let's pray.