

from the Lord, never to pass from his family, because given to them of Him, and it joined the palace of the King. Ahab thinks it will be nice for him to possess it, and asks Naboth to exchange it for another, or sell it to him. Naboth replies, in effect, I possess this inheritance from the Lord, a stewardship from Him ; I cannot trade it away, seeing the Lord has deeded it to *me*. What is the significance of that ? "That good thing which was committed unto thee, *keep* by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." (2 Tim. i. 14.) Oh, for a few Naboths in our day—men that would rather die than give up the inheritance of the Lord ! May we be found among them, "*holding* the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience !" How many now trade on Christianity, "merchantmen in the house of the Lord,"—those that are haters of the Lord feigning submission to Him for unholy ends—"supposing that gain is godliness," and saying that is the way to make things move. It is solemn iniquity in the sight of the Lord thus to prostitute His blessed name to the world that cast Him out ! It is as true as the Book of God has said it that *obedience* has gone out of date, "He that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey !" Those who would cleave to the Word of God are counted out everywhere. But we are not to give up our communion with God to have a better business, or gain the public favor, nor even that of the king. No, Naboth says, the Lord having given me this property in trust for Him, hold it I must and will. Jezebel then plans that if it cannot be had by fair means it may by foul, and causes righteous Naboth to be foully murdered, and for this sin God pronounces the judgment on Ahab,—"*In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.*" How men thus solemnly doom their souls to the depths of perdition for all eternity for a little gain, and because of the way they unjustly treat the truth and people of God ! And even where God is professedly owned, there you will find Ahab and Jezebel on the train ; among the so-called leaders of God's people how many such sad cases in all time in the "*shedding of innocent blood,*" and casting out the names as evil of those who will not give up their inheritance from the Lord—put away a good conscience or yield it up to the stewardship of others, because of the fear of the Lord. Solemn indeed the lesson for us all, for if we may not reach this length, how many "*smite* with the fist of wickedness, and *exact* all labours" and yet think they do God service. May we, beloved brethren, hear