

*Lesson*—Here is the palace of King Ahab at Jezreel (Outline). Close beside the gardens of the palace there is a beautiful spot, a vineyard belonging to a man named Naboth. King Ahab often looked at this vineyard, and the weed of covetousness began to grow. "I wish that vineyard belonged to my grounds", Ahab said to himself. Soon he spoke to Naboth,—“Give me thy vineyard that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near my house, and I will give thee for it a better vineyard, or I will pay you money for it if you wish.” But Naboth said, “No.” He would never part with the vineyard, which had belonged to his father and grandfather. King Ahab was very angry at Naboth, and acted like a spoiled child. What do you think he did? He came into his palace, lay down upon his bed, turned his face to the wall and would not eat any food. How foolish of a king to act in such a way! Ah! Here comes his wicked wife, Jezebel. Ahab tells her he wants Naboth's vineyard. “Oh”, she says, “I'll see that you get it. Arise, and eat, and let your heart be merry.”

*A Wicked Plot*—Wicked Jezebel made a plan to have Naboth blamed for a sin he did not commit, the punishment for which was being stoned to death. So she caused Naboth to be stoned to death, and then went to

King Ahab and said, “Take the vineyard now, for Naboth is dead.”

*Ahab Meets Elijah*—Here we see Ahab going into the vineyard which he had got in such a wicked way. At this time Elijah (Recall) received a message from God, telling him to go to Naboth's vineyard and there he would meet King Ahab. God gave Elijah a message for Ahab, a very dreadful message about the punishment that God was going to send upon him because of his covetousness and wickedness to Naboth, the owner of the vineyard.

*Golden Text*—Repeat Golden Text.

*God Searches the Heart*—God knew the weed that was growing in Ahab's heart. He knows all the weeds, as well as all the beautiful flowers, that are growing in our heart gardens. Here are some beautiful flowers to have in our heart gardens,—desire to get wisdom, desire to get love, desire to be helpful, desire to be unselfish. All these will crowd out the ugly weed of covetousness.

*Sing or Repeat* (Hymn 580, Book of Praise)—

May our thoughts be undefiled,  
May our words be true and mild,  
Make us each a holy child:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.

*Something to Think About*—I should desire only good things.

#### FROM THE PLATFORM

## THREE “C”S

Tell the scholars that you want them to tell you of THREE “C”s (Print) to be found in the Lesson, taking in the unprinted portion, vs. 1-10. You will be told, in answer to questions, what it was that Ahab desired to get for himself,—Naboth's vineyard near the royal palace in Jezreel; and a little further questioning will elicit the answer that we have here an example of COVETING, the first C. Next question about the plan proposed by Jezebel for getting the vineyard, and the carrying out of this plan by the killing of Naboth. It will not be difficult to draw out from the scholars the second C. found in this part of the Lesson,—CRIME. The third C. is CONDEMNATION, and will be brought out in connection with Elijah's meeting Ahab to tell the king of the terrible doom awaiting his family. Emphasize the thought that the three C's go together. Covetousness leads to Crime, and Crime brings Condemnation. Press home the Golden Text.