

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

June 15th 2026

First reading

1 Kings 21:1-16

‘Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.’

At that time: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab, king of Samaria. And after this Ahab said to Naboth, ‘Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.’ But Naboth said to Ahab, ‘The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.’ And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, ‘I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.’ And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, ‘Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?’ And 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 please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.” And he answered, “I will not give you my vineyard.”’ And Jezebel his wife said to him, ‘Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.’

So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. And she wrote in the letters, ‘Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, “You have cursed God and the king.” Then take him out and stone him to death.’ And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, ‘Naboth cursed God and the king.’ So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, ‘Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.’

As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, 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.’ And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 5:2-3. 5-6. 7. R2b

Give heed to my sighs, O Lord.

To my words give ear, O Lord;

give heed to my sighs.

Attend to the sound of my cry,

my King and my God.

You are no God who delights in evil;

no sinner is your guest.

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes.

All who do evil you despise;

all who lie you destroy.

The deceitful and those who shed blood,

the Lord detests.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 119(118):105

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
and a light for my path.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-42

'I say to you: Do not resist the one who is evil.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you: Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

Jesus invites us to live by a totally different guideline, not to impose our will on others and not repay evil with evil, but to show mercy and goodness instead. The worst instinct in nature is to mistreat those who have intended us nothing but good. The crucifixion of Jesus is the supreme example of that. It is a much nobler instinct to seek to resolve evil through goodness. This divine instinct of patience and goodwill was what prompted Jesus, who endured the evil that was done to him and responded with love. Basically, he lived and died to overcome evil with good.

It is almost impossibly hard to stay patient if we feel that others have done us harm, or to remain loving in the face of unfairness, or faithful in the face of infidelity. Nobody could live by these ideals without a special grace from God. We need that grace and the strength of the Spirit, to consistently follow the pacifist and peace-making lifestyle proposed by Jesus.