Sermon:

A case before Judge Rinder – young mum borrowed from parents for photoshoot for child was then scammed by the photo people. We get very indignant – rightly so.

Ahab and Naboth - land is not Naboth’s to sell. Also we become indignant – rightly so.

There are times when we are like one of the three main characters in our story…

[1] Being Naboth

Ever needed medical treatment but not had the money to go private, so end up on long waiting list?

Ever been scammed? Or burgled? Or tried to be good, but disasters still came?

When injustice against us or those whom we love, we can become angry, despairing, frustrated.

Can end up being violent – ISIS. It is not easy being Naboth.

[2] Being Ahab/Jezebel

When and where have we – as part of a nation, a culture, a faith, a family, group, or even by ourselves –taken what was not ours to take, simply because we wanted it?

Pakeha/Maori relations. We may not have been the takers, but still unwitting beneficiaries.

We may find this passage uncomfortably challenging.

[3] Being Elijah

Sometimes, we look at things going on around us and throw up our hands – evil is boundless and pervasive.

In some ways it is hardest to be Elijah, there seem to be no positives. And yet God still cries out for justice. Still God calls prophets to declare God’s word, even when it is unpopular. In what situations are we, individually and as a church, being called as prophets today? Where will we be the voice of justice?

These are not easy questions – but our worship, faith and belief mean nothing if our actions do not align with them too.