

Passive Men and Controlling Women: The Ahab and Jezebel Spirits Today

- All right, welcome to Real Men. We start a brand new series, four weeks starting today. We're going to deal with the Elijah Spirit, the Jezebel spirit, and also the Ahab spirit. I'm honored to have you. My name is Pastor Mark. Whether you're joining us live or online, this is Real Men. What we say is, "We build men up "to bless women and children," and I've got a serious word for you. I'm really excited about it, but I feel like this one, we should start in prayer. And so, I'm just going to go ahead and kneel and try and make sure that I do the best I can. Father God, thank you that we're your sons. God, thank you, that you looked down on the Earth, and you wanted to adopt some guys to be your sons, and you adopted us. You could have picked anyone. You picked us. God, we just thank you that you're our Father. That we don't belong to the father of lies. That we belong to the Father of light and truth and life. Lord Jesus, we thank you that we know exactly what it looks like to be a real man. That our God became a man, a perfect man, sinless man, a man who died and rose to save and forgive, and also to defeat the demonic, and to deliver us from darkness to light. Lord Jesus, we want to be like you, and we want to be like our Father. So, Holy Spirit, we invite you, fill this time, fill this place, fill these men, fill our lives. I pray against the enemy of servants, their works and effects, and we invite the Holy Spirit to do whatever he would have for us, in us, and through us. God, as we open your word, I pray that you would open our hearts and minds, and that when all is said and done, we'd be more like Jesus. And, God, we just thank you so much. You've spoken to us through your word, and as we open your word, Father, we pray your sons would open their ears. In Jesus' name, amen.

- Amen.

- All right, first talk is going to be "Passive Men and Controlling Women: "The Ahab and Jezebel Spirits" today. Let me start with a story to make this very personal and practical, and then we'll get biblical and theological. This story is based on a true story. It's a compilation of stories, but it's a story I'll tell about two people I'll call Tony and Gina. They met in college. They professed to be believers. They actually met at a college ministry, and pretty quickly Gina started becoming very aggressive, and flirtatious, and sexual. Now, Tony knew this was wrong, but he also enjoyed it. Men like sex, and all the men said?

- Amen.

- Amen, okay. And so, the problem is not liking sex. It's who you're supposed to have it with. So he crossed some lines, and he enjoyed the favors that he got. He thought, ultimately, "Well, she must really be into me," because he was naive and stupid. Welcome to college guys, and so, ultimately, what he didn't realize was this was manipulation, and it was her way of controlling the relationship. Now they can't really talk about spiritual things, and he's not really the leader because he has abdicated his authority through his passivity. So he enjoys what he's getting, and he doesn't understand that now she is leading. Pretty soon they eventually do get married. They graduate. They take jobs out of state, and there's a small church not far away. So she picks the church. Notice, she picks the church. She takes her husband to church. He doesn't

lead his family. He follows his wife. It's a small church, mainly older people. They get very active very quickly. As a young couple, people are excited to have them, a little fresh energy in life. They start volunteering a lot. They appear to be a very spiritual, very religious, very devout family and couple, but it's mainly her who is the driving spiritual force. Now they're volunteering. They're at the church all the time, putting in lots of hours, and the people in the church think that this is a wonderful young couple. They're very glad to have them. Well, before too long, she gets on the worship team. She can sing, so she's up front. Now she has a platform literally, and she's well-known. Eventually, her husband joins her. He plays an instrument, and on one curious weekend, she announces herself and her husband as the worship pastors. Now nobody in this church had given them that title, and that wasn't really their role. The people in the church just assumed, "Well, they're young. They don't really understand the language. Maybe they misspoke," so they tolerated this. Before long, she started showing up to various meetings at the church. Let's say it was women's ministry or children's ministry, or it was small group ministry. They would have leadership team meetings, and she would show up, but she wasn't part of the team, and she was never invited. She just kind of invited herself. Made people feel a little awkward, and, "Did you call her?" "Did you invite her? Rather than saying, they just kept tolerating. Well, pretty soon she started disagreeing with some of the preaching. And some of you chuckled because you've met this woman. She's in every church, by the way. She started by just having questions. "I'm not trying to be divisive. I just have some questions." But then pretty soon she was pushing back. "You know, I don't really agree with that sermon. I don't think the tone was right. I don't think we should do that series. That's not exactly what I think the Bible says." Well, it reached a point where it started to become a problem. She started having other women over to her house, in her controlled environment, by the way, and she would share with them some of her concerns and her frustrations and her disappointments. Of course, it was usually all women, and how the church was led by men. She didn't feel like the women had enough of a voice, and she didn't feel like the pastor was really loving the people well enough, and that some of the Bible teaching wasn't accurate. Next thing you know, she's handing out literature and books on other teachers. And next thing you know, they don't really trust the leadership. So they've started their own little bible study at her house. They're inviting other women from the church. Now these women are starting to echo her, and it becomes a problem. Now it's divisive and there's a faction. So the leaders of the church call the husband in. They say, "You know, you're the head of the home, and this is your wife and this has officially become a bit of a problem, and we want to talk to you about this. And if you believe it's a problem, we want you to go talk to your wife." And the husband was nice. He was compliant. He listened. He apologized. He was very considerate. He didn't get defensive. He sort of absorbed it all. The leaders of the church said, "Don't go home and tell your wife what we said, but go consider and seek the Lord. And if you think that any of what we're sharing is true and your wife needs to correct some things or get some help, we're just encouraging you, as the leader of the family, to go say whatever you believe would be in the best interest of your wife and marriage." He went home. What do you think he told his wife? "Yeah, I met with the leaders, and here's what they said about you," and he gets himself out of the middle. Now it's a head-on collision between the wife and the leaders, and he has completely exited his responsibility. Well, now she feels very hurt. Now she feels very judged. She feels very unloved. She gets very

emotional, lots of tears. Pretty soon lots of emails, lots of phone calls, lots of social media posts, lots of drama. Gets very loud. Gets very emotional. Gets very public, because now she's a victim, or at least that's what she says. This continues to where now the church leadership is embroiled in a controversy, and a lot of the women are taking sides, and people are leaving the church. And now her story keeps shifting. All of a sudden, she was confronted directly, and they cursed at her, and they were unloving to her, and they threatened her. Things that never happened. So they called for a meeting, and they said to the husband, "Could you please bring your wife?" "We need to sit down and sort this out. "It's gotten very public. "It's gotten very ugly." He showed up. She didn't show up. They said, "Where's your wife?" He said, "She won't come. "She acts very independent. "She's a very independent woman." They said, "Well, if you can't lead her, "and she's not going to get help, "and she's going to be divisive, "maybe the two of you should find another church." Well, now it explodes. "It's domineering, overbearing. "It's a cult. "They're heavy-handed. "They're not accountable. "You know, I've been mistreated. "This is spiritual abuse. "I demand the finances. "I demand all the accounting. "We need a lot of information. "We need to walk in the light, "and hold these people accountable." This happens at some point in every church. Well, eventually this couple refused to leave the church, and eventually this little church, it died. Then she went online as a victim, and said, "See, I was a prophet. "I was telling the truth. "My visions were true. "My dreams were true. "My interpretation of the Bible was true. "My leadership was true. "If they just would've submitted to me "and listened to me, "I could have saved our church." She presented herself as a victim when she was just a witch. But, I don't just know this woman, I know thousands of this woman, apostate, rebellious, independent, can't find any church that is biblical, mental health issues, sexual confusion, transgender ideation or at least approval, self-righteousness, profound deep religiousness, hatred, toward any man who would say, "No", or teach the Bible, that's the Jezebel spirit. The Jezebel spirit is rebuked in the days of Elijah, and in the New Testament book of Revelation chapter two. Jesus says, "You tolerate that woman Jezebel. "She says she's a prophetess and a teacher. "She leads people astray, "and she seduces them sexually." Jezebel loves to take control of the home and the church, the home and the church. I'm going to talk about the Jezebel spirit, the Ahab spirit, and also the Elijah spirit. The Bible doesn't just tell us what happened, but what always happens. The problem that we're going to see in First Kings starts back in Genesis. Our first father Adam he acted like an Ahab. Satan shows up. There is a demonic attack, and what does he say and do? Nothing, he's passive. He's like, "I'm not going to say or do anything. "I'm just going to stay out of this "and see what happens." So what Eve does, she seeks control. "Well, if Adam is not going to lead, I will." So she takes control. She's the boss. She takes the reins. She has the argument with Satan. She gets confused. She sins. She gives something to her husband. He participates. She's the leader. He's the follower, and the truth is, men hear me in this, if you don't lead your family, Satan will. Genesis three, Adam, and Eve, and Satan, who did Eve think was leading the family? She thought she was leading the family. Who was leading the family? Satan. There's two options: You lead your family or Satan will. He'll lie to your wife, and tell her that she's the leader. What happens then is God comes to Eve, and he says, as part of her curse, she will want to do what with her husband? Rule, control, dominate, be the boss. That's the beginning of the Jezebel and Ahab pattern. Fast forward to First Kings 16 through Second Kings two. Read it for yourself. That's my exhortation

to all of you. They are literal people. Ahab was the king of Israel, demonic, generational cursed line, according to First Kings 16. He marries a Sidonian, godless, demonic woman named Jezebel. They are literal, historical people, but working through them are spiritual forces. For that reason, though we do not have those people at work in our world, their spirits are still very much at work in our world through different people. My thesis is new day, same demons. This pattern of passive men like Ahab, and controlling, spiritual, seductive, emotional women like Jezebel continues to this very day. I've got it in the free study guide. Pick it up on your way out. Go to realfaith.com. We'll give it to you digitally for free or a gift of any amount. I send out daily devotions five days a week. I wrote a 70-some thousand word book on this in something, like, 48 hours, just kind of in a bit of a focused phase. Maybe we'll give that away. But, here's the big idea. I do my homework and I love you. I want to provide good Bible teaching. Some will say, "Well, there's no evidence "in the Bible of a Jezebel and Ahab spirit." I would say, "Well, the word Bible "also does not appear in the Bible," just so you know. It doesn't. It says, "scripture," but the word Bible doesn't appear in the Bible. What we do see with Ahab, I'll just summarize it briefly, why there is an Ahab and Jezebel spirit, I said this in the sermon this weekend, number one, with Ahab it says that he did more evil at the end of First Kings 16 than any king before him. That word evil is also translated in the storyline of Saul as a tormenting, demonic spirit. In addition, I showed you, I think, it was in Second Kings nine where it says that he sold his soul to the devil. He sold his soul to do evil, like Judas, possessed by evil to do evil. Jezebel appears not just in First Kings, but as I told you, in Revelation chapter two. It's a different woman, but the same spirit shows up through a different woman over a thousand years removed from Jezebel. So what we're talking about is a spirit that lives on, and there are three levels of influence or control with these spirits. Some people are possessed by demonic spirits. Jesus deals with these people during his life. They have extraordinary power, authority, clairvoyance. They're dangerous, and/or they're very, very convincing and seductive. And so, what we see with Jezebel and Ahab, they are possessed by these demonic and evil spirits. What happens when someone is possessed? It's the counterfeit of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Everything God creates Satan counterfeits. Being demon possessed is the counterfeit to being Spirit filled. What happens when someone is demon possessed, where their personality ends and the demon begins, is a very blurry line. Their decision making, their identity, their lifestyle is not purely determined by them. It is some sort of combination of them and that evil force that is at work in and through them. Medically, or I should say clinically, sometimes this will be called multiple personality disorder or dissociative identity disorder. People that have different names, and different personalities, and different storylines, you're like, "What is going on?" Well, they have different spirits at work. Jesus encounters one named Legion. That's an entire military fighting unit of demonic soldiers for the kingdom of darkness. Some people are not just possessed, but they're oppressed by demonic spirits. This is the case, for example, with Elijah. We're going to hit this coming up at the end of the month. We're going to be in, I think, it's First Kings 18, where Elijah is on Mount Carmel, and he's against the 850 false prophets of Baal and Asherah, the male and female demon gods in Israel. I think that week, I think, Sean Feucht's going to come lead worship for us. It's coming together to be a little bit of a fun time. What happens in the next chapter in First Kings 19 is that Jezebel puts out a death sentence on Elijah after he sees fire come down from Heaven, and he is overwhelmed and anxious, to the degree, that he runs a

hundred miles away. The prophet of God, who's just seen fire come down from Heaven, he goes into the wilderness alone. He lays down, and he basically says, "I just want to die." "I just want to die." He is oppressed by this demonic Jezebel and Ahab spirit to the degree where he is exhausted. He is overwhelmed. To use the clinical term, he is dysregulated. He ain't himself, and he's not doing good. There are going to be times that even if you are like Elijah and you love and serve the Lord, you will feel this demonic oppression on you. And this demonic oppression will exhaust you. It will confuse you. It will disorient you. It will cause you to give in to a spirit of fear, and it'll cause you to make bad decisions. He recovers from it. God finds him. God speaks to him. God gives him 40 days of recovery. In addition, there is not just possession and oppression, there is personalities and tendencies. Some people don't have the Ahab spirit, but they're just very passive, shy people. So they have personality and tendency. Other people don't have the Jezebel spirit, but they're just high-control people. And it's being aware of that. Sometimes this can be because you grew up in a dysfunctional and broken family system. If you grew up in a home where it was a lot of permissiveness, and it caused you brokenness or trauma, you can be a person that only feels safe when you're in control. If you're a person that was always controlled, you may be a person who becomes too passive and allows things to happen because you don't want to be controlling of others. Sometimes this can be the result of bad teaching in church. There's sort of this stupid lie that's gone out. There's many, but one is, that to be a Christian is just to always be a nice person and not to cause any trouble. There's a time when Elijah is face-to-face with Ahab, and Ahab looks at him, and he says, "Well, you're the troubler. "You're causing all the trouble." The answer is, "Yeah, that's my ministry." We need some men that the Lord would call to a ministry of sanctified troublemaking. Sometimes it's good to get in trouble with the wrong people for the right reasons.

- [Congregant] Amen.

- Okay, and so, what we see is that, ultimately, there are going to be times when you're going to be oppressed. If you do love the Lord, you'll be dealing with people who are possessed, and sometimes you'll manifest tendencies, tendencies, personalities. Couple of things I'll say before we jump in. A man or a woman can have the Ahab or Jezebel spirit. Spirits are not engendered. They can appear male or female. A man can have the Jezebel spirit. He can be domineering, overbearing, high-controlling, and also very sexually unhealthy and very religious. I've met guys like that. Some of the most difficult guys I've ever dealt with in ministry were head-on collisions with those guys. Similarly, a woman can have an Ahab spirit. She can have a wrong understanding that honoring and respecting the leadership of her husband means that she's not allowed to have an independent thought, that she's never allowed to disagree or have her own voice, and so she becomes wrongly passive. In my experience, however, having had a head-on collision with these spirits for a long time, most of the time in my experience, it's the man who has the Ahab spirit, and it's the woman who has the Jezebel spirit. The man is passive, and the woman is controlling. Either can be true, but in my experience, that is most often true. In addition, an Ahab and a Jezebel spirit, they feed off of one another. And so, let's just use the example in marriage, since we're dealing with the marriage of Jezebel and Ahab. Ahab was passive. That allowed her to be controlling. His passivity opens up her domineering,

overbearing, controlling tendencies. They feed off of one another, and they use one another. I'll say this as well. It is less likely that someone will overcome a Jezebel spirit than an Ahab spirit. Here's why. The Jezebel spirit is about, what did I tell you? Control. The key to being free of the Jezebel spirit is to have God be in control not you. If you are the person who does not give up control, you can't be healthy, and you can't be holy because the only way to be holy and the only way to be healthy, and I would add to be happy, is to be under the ruling authority of Jesus Christ, and the sovereign rule of God in control over your life. If you're a person who says, "I have to be in control," you can't be a Christian. You at least can't be a healthy Christian. And so, it is more likely that someone with the Ahab spirit would overcome that and be delivered than someone who has the Jezebel spirit of control. That being said let me unpack these a bit in succession. Let me deal first with the Ahab spirit. An Ahab spirit is marked by passivity, cowardice, indifference, hesitancy, insecurity. I'll get into these in more detail. Next week I've got 28 signs of an Ahab spirit. Then I've got 29 signs of a Jezebel spirit. Then at the end how to deal with these spirits in talk number four. But an Ahab spirit avoids conflict. They do not like conflict. They also avoid disagreement and confrontation. They don't like to confront others, and they don't like others to confront them. They will avoid at all costs confrontation. They are passive. In addition, they tend to be very insecure. They need to be needed. They like to be liked. They oftentimes struggle with what Proverb 29:25 calls quote/unquote, "the fear of man." Fear of man is, "Do you like me? "Do you approve of me? "Are you going to punish me?" "Are you going to reject me?" "Are you going to correct me?" "Are you going to expose me?" You're very concerned, not about the Lord, but them, and not his decision, but their opinion. This leads to people pleasing, and cowardice, and fear of man. Sometimes this can include a shy personality. Someone with a shy personality is more prone to an Ahab tendency. Someone who is more loud, confident, aggressive, more susceptible to Jezebel tendencies. Some of you are just more quiet. You're like, "I just don't like to say a lot. "I don't raise my voice. "I don't like to get in arguments and fights." Some of you are like, "I think slow, "and so usually the argument is way down the road before "I've even figured out what I'm going to say." Okay? In addition, if you have unhealed trauma or hurt, that Ahab spirit causes you to be sort of a broken person who's not strong enough for the conflict. The way this leaves you vulnerable to the Jezebel spirit, Ahab spirit: passive, Jezebel spirit: controlling and domineering. If you don't say something, she will. If you don't do something, she will. If you don't act, she will. The Jezebel spirit is about control. There's only one thing that makes the Jezebel spirit happy. It ain't health, wealth, success. It's control. That's why people love their life, even when it's a disaster because they're in charge. These are the people that have to be in charge. They have to be in control. They are going to give you serious grief if you don't ask their permission, or if you disagree with them, or if you make a decision without consulting them. These people are prone to being very emotional, and if it's a woman, doubly so. So you single guys pay careful attention. Let me just put the dad hat on. Sometimes women will manipulate through seduction. Flirt, sex, "I'll take care of you. "You let me do whatever I want." Older men, is that true or false? It's true. Some women they control through seduction. Others through emotion. They're going to freak out. They're going to cry. They're going to throw a fit. It's going to be a lot of drama. There's going to be tears, and as men that makes us uncomfortable true or false? True, so what a man does, he's like, "You just tell me what you want, "and I'll say yes if you stop being so emotional." Okay, let me say this too. My

wife is also teaching this. So bring your wife, okay? You Ahab's are like, "Somebody needs to say it." Grace will, she's Elijah, I'm just telling you how that's going to roll. But what happens is this. They find different ways to be in control. They control the environment. They control the conversation. They control the budget. They control the church. They control the emotion. They control the bedroom. They're the boss. They're the boss. When Jezebel was married, she was young, beautiful, sensual, and evil. But she was something. Her father was, as we studied this weekend, a Sidonian king. He's a high priest of Asherah, a demonic female deity of fertility and sensuality. This is generational curses of evil in the family. Her father's name Ethbaal means literally "with Baal." "With Baal." So he worships Baal, demonic false god, Asherah demonic false god, purported to be male and female, and they had sexual relations, and they encouraged total sexual anarchy. The Holy Spirit reminds me when Jesus rebukes those who were tolerating the Jezebel spirit in Revelation, he says that, "They are allowing her to seduce them "to sexual immorality." Hear me in this, men. That word in the original Greek, I'm just reminded of this, is the same root word that we get pornography from. It's porneia. The Jezebel spirit runs the porn industry. The Jezebel spirit knows that if you can't control a man through domination, you can through seduction. Then you get him into a position of addiction, and as soon as he is addicted to pornography or sexuality, then you are in control. The Jezebel spirit will use anyone or anything for control. Jezebel's name literally means, "without husband or un-husbanded," and her name also means "with Baal." So she's fiercely independent, very strong-will, and her devotion is not to her husband, but to her demon. Hear me in this. The Jezebel spirit is oftentimes very religious, profoundly religious. This is why you see Jesus rebuking the Jezebel spirit at a church called Thyatira in Revelation two. A lot of times people are like, "Why are some of the worst women in church?" Because Jezebel goes to church. She wants to get on the board. She wants to attack the pastor. She wants to get as close to the leadership as she can. She wants to control the finances and communication. Jezebel loves being in control. What better place to be in control than to try and control the church that belongs to Jesus Christ? Jesus is the one who rules the church, and Jezebel thinks that she could do a better job. So the Jezebel spirit is profoundly religious. Every gal who quotes a verse isn't necessarily filled with the Holy Spirit. Every gal who has ministry experience was not necessarily serving the kingdom of God. Every gal who feels like the Lord has called her to come alongside and lift a burden and help the minister, sometimes is not sent by God, but the enemy of God, very profoundly, deeply religious, if not spiritual. The Jezebel spirit is fiercely independent, manipulative, controlling, and very unrepentant. If you confront the Jezebel spirit, they will fight back, and if they feel like they're losing, they will change the conversation to where they are a victim and you have abused them, and they're very hurt and very emotional. What the Jezebel spirit knows is if it's a woman who then is declaring war on a man, it puts the man in a lose-lose position. Because if she attacks him and he fights back, "See, he's mean. He's domineering. "He's overbearing. He's a bully. "Me too." And if he just takes it and tolerates it, she'll control and dominate. It's spiritual warfare. In our culture, the Jezebel spirit knows that a man versus a woman, the man is guilty until proven innocent, and the woman is innocent until proven guilty, and she'll use that to her advantage. If she doesn't get the outcome she wants, she'll go on the internet, because all the Jezebels are on the internet, and then create some sort of coalition, and together now you have the equivalent of a demonic legion. Now, within this, the

way that a Jezebel spirit works, domineering, controlling, threatening, overbearing, emotional, seductive, punishment and reward, there's only one thing that the Jezebel spirit needs to dominate, control, and win, and that is tolerance. Jesus rebukes the church in Revelation chapter two. He says, "You tolerate." See, this is the problem of the Ahab spirit. The Ahab spirit is passive, so it tolerates. That allows the Jezebel spirit to dominate. So here's what you get: tolerate, dominate. That's the cycle. All you've got to do, say nothing. All you got to do is do nothing. All you've got to do is just not engage, and here's why. You don't want to engage, because that will enrage. I feel like I should go from preaching to meddling here. Some of you, you're like, "Look, man, don't cross mom. "Hey, dad, what do you think?" "Ask your mom. "She's the boss." "Why don't you talk to your wife about that?" "Oh, no, man. "No, I don't, no." "Well, maybe I'll... "Maybe I'll, you know, "try a little bit." "But, you know, I can't just say, "hey, this is a problem, "because if I engage, she will enrage, "and I'm scared of her, "or I'm scared of what she'll do, "or I'm scared of what she'll say, "or I'm scared that she's going to gut me "for half my money and take my kids." That's spiritual warfare. Let me talk a little bit about alliances and soul ties, and these work together. What you have with the Jezebel and Ahab spirits is a codependent relationship. They stick together because they need one another, because they feed one another in the worst possible way. The American Psychological Association defines a codependent relationship as this, "The state of being mutually reliant," end quote, and quote, "A dysfunctional relationship pattern, "in which an individual is psychologically dependent on "or controlled by a person "who has a pathological condition." Ahab needs to be needed. He wants somebody to take care of him. He wants somebody to sleep with him. He wants somebody to make the decisions for him. Jezebel needs somebody that she can control, and dominate, and rule over, and use, and abuse. So she takes care of him, and he abdicates his authority to her. Their relationship, as you watch it, just verbal process for a moment, but like when you watch it, there's a guy that comes in the story. His name is Naboth. He's got a piece of land, and Ahab, the king, he's got tons of land. He doesn't need land, and there's this one little plot of land. He's like, "I want that too," because he's an impetulant, selfish, childish imp of a man. And so, he goes, and he tries to negotiate the deal, and Naboth is like, "No, this is my family's land. "We've had it for generations. "I'm not going to sell it to you." So what happens is Ahab goes home, lays in bed, faces the wall, and throws a fit sucking his thumb like a baby boy, and then Jezebel comes in, rubs his back, "What's wrong honey?" "Naboth won't sell me the land. "He won't sell me. I wanted the land. "I just need the land." She says, "That's okay. "I'll kill him and get you the land." She murders Naboth. Takes the land. Their relationship, and some of you hear me in this, their relationship is like a sick mother and a dependent son. They don't have what looks like a marriage. She's like a demonic mom, and he is like a complete childish son. They have this unhealthy codependent relationship. He's too much of a coward to make decisions and lead, and she wants to dominate and control. So they have this co-dependent relationship. It's the demonic counterfeit of unity, by the way. They have community, but they don't have spirit-filled, life-giving healthy community. They are together. They're together like drug cartels and biker gangs. They are together, and they have an unholy alliance. There are holy and unholy alliances in the Bible. Unholy alliances would include Sanballat and Tobiah that attacked Nehemiah. We looked at that when we studied that book of the Bible. Jannes and Jambres who attacked Moses. Hymenaeus and Alexander who attacked Paul. In the storyline of Elijah, what's

the unholy alliance up against Elijah? It's Ahab and Jezebel. That's an unholy alliance. Some people come together like two barrels on a gun to multiply their evil. In addition, there are holy alliances in the Bible. In the days of Nehemiah, Ezra and Nehemiah they're a holy alliances. In the days of Moses, Moses and Joshua they're a holy alliances. In the days of Paul, Paul and Timothy are a holy alliance, and in the days of Elijah, Elijah and Elisha are a holy alliance. The goal is not to just have relationships and community, but to have healthy, life-giving, God-glorifying relationships and community. In the days of Jesus, he had a holy alliance with his disciples, and then Judas had an unholy alliance with the religious and political leaders. So when you go to the crucifixion of Jesus, suffering and dying in our place for our sins, it's literally a holy alliance versus an unholy alliance. It's Satan working through Judas with the unholy alliance of political and religious leaders, against Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit surrounded by his disciples. In addition, there are something called soul ties. I know a lot of my non-charismatic friends will argue all of these points, and they're wrong. What happens is if you don't believe in the Holy Spirit, you don't really believe in the demonic spirits either, and if you don't fully consider the Holy Spirit, you don't fully consider the unholy spirits. We believe what the Bible says, and that is that, "Our war is not against flesh and blood, "but powers, principalities, and spirits," and hear me in this. Let me just speak with a father's heart of compassion. When we see someone who is gripped, whether it's possessed, oppressed, or just personality trait or type of, like Ahab or Jezebel, we don't hate those people. We love them. We agree with the words of the Lord Jesus who said that he came to set captives free. That the God of this world has blinded people's eyes, and he has taken them like captives in war. These are people that are now under the oppression and possession of a kingdom of darkness. They are not only doing harm, they're doing harm to themselves. So we don't hate anybody. We love everybody, but we do hate those spirits that harm and damage and attack people that God loves and Jesus died for. And so, when it comes to soul ties, soul ties are a bond between two individuals. Their soul, mind, will, emotions are knit or joined together, and you can have a soul tie for good or evil. You can tell you've got a soul tie, when one person follows another. In marriage, the wife should follow the husband's leadership, not behind him, but alongside of him. In an unholy marriage, the wife is out front, domineering and overbearing. That's a feminist marriage. In an unhealthy, unholy, chauvinistic marriage, the husband is domineering and overbearing. In a healthy marriage, where there is a healthy soul tie, the husband and wife are together, but the husband is the head. In addition, what you see when there is a soul tie, one person fulfills the desires of another. Again, in a healthy marriage, this can be very, very good. I got home late last night from a trip. I've been on the road. I'm out recording Good Friday for online tomorrow. It's a very, very busy week. My wife Grace came up today, held my hand, prayed for me in my office. She said, "You got a lot going on this week." She said, "How can I be a good friend? "How can I help? "What do you need from me?" That's my girl. See, what you see with Ahab and Jezebel, she fulfills his desires, and he fulfills her desires, but their desires are always evil. So he gets what she wants. She gets what she wants. He gets what he wants. God never gets what he wants. What happens in a soul tie, people will surrender or share goods. Again in a good marriage, like you give to your wife, your wife gives to you. You share everything. In an unhealthy, unholy soul tie, the one person wins and the other loses. See, Ahab thinks that he's winning because he married this hot, beautiful, seductive, competent, courageous, business-minded woman, and

he's going to join two kingdoms together. In his mind, he is now ruling over two kingdoms. Is he? No, she just invaded his kingdom through his bedroom, and now she is ruling and reigning over two kingdoms. In addition, when there is a soul tie, when someone you are attached to is opposed or attacked, you defend them. In a healthy marriage, that's a good thing. With Jezebel and Ahab, they support and defend one another when they shouldn't because they're wrong. Let me tell you this, men. Your goal is not to defend your wife. Your wife's goal is not to defend you. You and your wife's goal is to defend the Lord. A lot of times this is where... It just comes to mind. You tell me if it's the Spirit. Your wife is like, "I'm your wife! "You need to take my side!" The answer is, "I need to take side "of truth and righteousness." I tell this to my kids all the time. "I'm not for or against you. "I'm for the Lord, and I would like you "to be on that side of the line." If there is a line, and that's wrong, and this is right, and somebody you love is on that side of the line, you can't cross that line to align with them. You need to invite them to repent, to cross the line, and to join you on the side of that which is true and right. This is what happens in marriage. Now I didn't think of it until right now, but what happens with Ahab and Jezebel, they are committed to each other not to the Lord, and so they always defend one another, and they always offend the Lord. I am not for or against people. I'm not for or against truth and righteousness, and if you are against truth and righteousness, I love you, but I can't be for you, and I can't side with you. Because if I did, I would be declaring war on God. I want you guys to think, not in terms of, "Who am I loyal to?" But, "Am I loyal to him?" In addition, I'll just jump into this. Let me just summarize this. In the storyline of Elijah, holy alliance, healthy soul tie, would be? Elijah and Elisha. They align together. They are connected, and they are both filled with the Spirit and for the Lord. Unholy alliance, unholy soul tie? Jezebel and Ahab. The reason that we're here, men, you're looking for your Elijah or you're looking for your Elisha. You're looking for the guy who is filled with the Spirit and does love the Lord, and the two of you, you can walk together. The Holy Spirit wants to introduce you to men like Elijah and Elisha. Demonic spirits also do a lot of introducing. Some years ago, one of my pastors, he asked me this question. He asked, "Have you ever noticed "that two people who are just evil "and never met they always find each other?" You notice that? Have you ever noticed that, like, all the Ahabs find each other, and you're like, "How do you do that? "You guys are all passive. "Who organized this? "Who took the initiative to put you together as a group? "You guys don't do anything. "You're passive." You ever noticed that the Jezebels, they find each other? Some of you, you married a girl because she was crazy in bed, and then you realized she's just crazy. Right? "You're like, I don't like crazy at Costco." No one does. Have you noticed that crazy finds crazy? That evil finds evil. That just men hating, broken, traumatized, weaponized women, they always find... You could be in a very large church and there's three of them. They all have to go to the bathroom at the same time, and they end up next to each other, or they end up at the same women's ministry sharing prayer requests about their husbands. I'll just tell you, a lot of evil happens in women's ministry. That's why Grace runs it. She's an Elijah. Have you ever wondered how do people that have never met, but they're like the same spirit, how do they meet? Well, the people don't know each other, but the demons do, and the demons make the introductions. If the Ahab spirit is working through 10 men, they can introduce them. "Hey, you guys can Ahab together." If the demonic spirit is working through the 10 Jezebels like, "Well, you 10 Jezebels, we get you together. "You'd be quite a coven, "or home Bible study call it what you

want. "Call it what you want." And the Holy Spirit also introduces people. "You Elijahs need each other. "You Elishas, the younger guys we're pulling up, you need each other, and we need each other. So, let me end with this. I'm over. If you are honest with yourself, don't raise your hand and don't make any noise. I'm going to give you three options. Would your tendency be, "I'm more like Jezebel? "Controlling, domineering, bossy, pushy. "Need to be in the know. "Need to make sure everybody knows what I want. "And if I don't get my way, "well, then there's going to be hell to pay." Oh, also, are you sexually unhealthy or perverted? Okay, that's Jezebel. Would your tendency or proclivity be, "I'm more like Ahab? "I would rather run from a fight than into a fight. "If I know that my wife is upset, "I'm not going to walk into that room. "I'm just going to let the kids take it. "I'm not going to get in the middle. "If there's an issue at work, "I'm just going to keep my head down "and try not to draw any attention to myself. "If my daughter is dating a guy "that is not a very good guy, "I'm just going to hope it works out. "Maybe pray, but like, "I don't know what to say or do, "so I just won't say or do anything." Or are you more like Elijah? "I don't look for the fight, "but I'll have it. "I don't have to be the guy who says it, "but if nobody does, I'm going to say it. "I'm not always looking for trouble. "But if trouble comes, "I will get in front of it." The key is that most men are either Jezebel or Elijah, or, excuse me, Jezebel or Ahab, and their wife is the other. If you are the Jezebel and your wife is an Ahab, you're abusing her. If you are an Ahab and your wife is a Jezebel, she's abusing you. And sometimes you take turns, and the key out of it all is the Spirit of Elijah. I'll close with this. Sometime later, and this is the end of the Old Testament. God says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah." Elijah, the prophet. That means, the one who tells the truth. "Before that great and awesome day of the Lord comes. "Then he will turn the hearts "of the fathers to the children, "and the hearts of the children to the fathers. "Lest I come and strike the land "with the decree of utter destruction." Here's what he's saying. I just feel inclined to say this. A nation is doomed, a culture is doomed, a family is doomed, a church is doomed, a ministry is doomed, a legacy is doomed unless there's an Elijah. And when an Elijah shows up, they speak the word of God, and it changes the heart of men. And it gives them the father's heart. And it gives them a heart to father their own children. And it gives their children a heart to love and follow the active, healthy leadership of their father. What he says is, "Unless the Elijah spirit is present, "you have men who hate children "and children with father wounds who hate men." That's America. All of our problems are two things. People aren't connected to the Father. They're not connected to their father. Those are the two problems. The answer is that Elijah helps connect the fathers to the Father, and then the children can connect to their fathers and to the Heavenly Father. And the Spirit of Elijah is at work in Elijah. It then gets transferred in double portion to Elisha. It is promised here that the Elijah Spirit, the Father heart of God's Spirit, would then come in John the Baptizer, to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus, who also has the Elijah Spirit, to such a degree, he asks, "Who do people think that I am?" They say, "Some think you're Elijah." The Holy Spirit's in Elijah. The Holy Spirit's in Elisha. The Holy Spirit's in John the Baptizer. The Holy Spirit is in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is in you. The Holy Spirit is in you if you belong to Jesus. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in you. Greater is he who is in you than he who is at work in this world through the Jezebel's and Ahab's. You do not have a spirit of fear. You have a Spirit of sonship, you have a Spirit of fatherhood, and you have a Spirit of faith. You, men, are here to surrender to the Holy Spirit, to be active in your home, and in your church, and in your business, and in your

community. I am telling you this. This world is run by Ahabs and Jezebels, and we're here to learn how to be Elijah. Father God, thank you for an opportunity to teach, and, God, as we go to a time of testimony and table talk, God, I pray that this would capture the hearts of the men. God, our world is ruled by Ahab's and Jezebels, and, Lord, it is destroying generations and breaking children. And, Father, our heart is that we would build men up to bless women and children. God, I pray for the men who are Ahabs. That they would activate, not in a domineering or overbearing way, but in an assertive and God-glorifying way. I pray that they would open their mouth when they need to speak. That they would act when they need to act, and that they would stop their sin of omission. God, for those who are more Jezebel, controlling, domineering, overbearing, God, I pray that they would repent and submit to your authority. Come under your sovereignty, not be in control, but be controlled by the Holy Spirit. And, Jesus, thank you, that you came into a world filled with Jezebels and Ahabs. You weren't passive like Ahab, and you weren't evil like Jezebel. Lord Jesus, please send us the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Elijah, the Spirit of Elisha, the Spirit of John the Baptizer, and Jesus, your Spirit, to allow us, and enable us, and empower us to be like Elijah, to speak like Elijah, to lead like Elijah, to endure like Elijah, to love like Elijah, to activate like Elijah, in Jesus' name. Love you, guys, thanks for letting me teach.