

Daily Homily
St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church
11 Week in Ordinary Time
Monday
[13 June 2022](#)

What a horrible story – a horrible story to start off our Monday.

Naboth is an upright individual. A solid citizen. All he really has is a vineyard.

The king, Ahab, wants what Naboth has, his vineyard. He will give him money or even a better vineyard. But it's not about that for Naboth. He has a sentimental attachment to the land. It's the land of his ancestors. It's land that has been passed on from generation to generation. Money can't buy that and another vineyard can't claim that.

Ahab pouts, and his wife, Jezebel, listens to his groaning. She answers with deception and a murderous plot to kill Naboth so that King Ahab can have his land. And so, it unfolds unfortunately for Naboth but successfully for Jezebel and Ahab, as Ahab moves into the vineyard.

Horrible story to start off our Monday. And I love the response that the Psalmist puts in our mouth... "Lord, listen to my groaning." What a word "groan?" We can't help but groan for Naboth. He didn't deserve that, he didn't deserve to be caught in the middle of two people's evil plots. But the Psalmist says it, that groaning is itself a prayer to God.

What's the story say to us? What's the story directing in our life? I think one thought is, take care who you allow to hear your own groaning and complaining and bickering. Jezebel heard Ahab's groaning that he wanted the vineyard, and that's when the web of deception was spun.

We will see tomorrow who hears God's groaning over this situation. It is Elijah!

May our prayerful complaining and groaning over things out of our control or within our control always be first directed to God, so God may hear us and from there bring about in time resolution and relief.