

Men of greater spiritual stature than Israel's wicked king have succumbed to depression. In some cases the goal sought for was perfectly legitimate (unlike Ahab's objective). The blocking of the goal might have been the unwise move of an incompetent leader. Whatever the circumstances, the inner rage and resentment leading to depression is not simply an inappropriate or immature reaction; it is sin.

In Ahab's case, his wife Jezebel, came to his aid and offered her services. The aggressor bent on revenge was a surrogate for the frustrated party. She saw to it that Naboth not only lost his vineyard, but also his life.

When a minister involved in a team effort becomes depressed, his wife will surely notice. She may sound the familiar, "What's the matter dear?" He is likely to reply at first, "Oh, nothing," but she won't accept this as the final word. After more prodding, he may say:

He: "Ah, I just can't do anything I want to do to get the Sunday School rolling!"

She: "Why dear, what's standing in your way?"

He: "You mean, who's standing in my way? Three guesses, and the first two don't count."

She: "You mean to say Harry (the senior pastor) won't let you implement any of your ideas?"

He: "Good grief! He won't even allow me to have any ideas. My hands are tied."