Before the THRONE
The Devotional

"And Jezebel, Ahab's wife, said unto him, "Don't you now rule the Kingdom of Israel? Arise, eat, and let your heart be cheerful. I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 1 King 21:7

This Jezebel spirit is all too often seen within the Church. It is manipulative and ultimately murderous – if only of reputations and the unity and purity of the local assembly and individual personalities. It is most often at odds with those prophetic giftings within the church and is cunning in its attempt to undermine the pastoral leadership and others that hold genuine spiritual authority. This spirit can be most formidable as we see it had the great prophet Elijah on the run! (1 Kings 19:1-3)

How then do we as Christians respond to this spirit? First, we must see with the eyes of the Spirit. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood…" (Ephesians 6:12). Second, we must act in the Spirit of the Lamb, "let nothing be done through strife or vain glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3). And third, we must operate and govern our lives by the wisdom of God. "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (James 3:17) Finally, we must gain the victory from within our prayer closets.

If you will give yourself to a life of prayer, lived out in the Spirit of Jesus and you will govern yourself by the word of God, your Christian "vineyard" will be free from much of the devilish devices of this spirit of Jezebel.