

GOING BEYOND Difficult People – Part 2

ON TV: Difficult people keep us **off balance**.

ON TV: When we're off balance physically or emotionally we're forced to **compensate**.

ON TV: It is so difficult to be **good to people** who just **aren't good**.

ON TV: Golden Rule: *"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."*

ON TV: Iron rule: *Do unto others as they have done unto you...or **even worse!***

ON TV: What do we do about the **difficult people** in our life?

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. 3 His name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was harsh and mean in his dealings." 1 Samuel 25:2-3*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"7... When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel, nothing of theirs went missing." 1 Samuel 25:7b*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"10 ... 'Who is this, David? Who is this son of Jesse? 12 David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they repeated every word. 13 David said to his men, 'Each of you strap on your sword.' So, they did. And David strapped on his own as well. About four hundred men went up with David." 1 Samuel 25:10-13*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"21 It's been useless, all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness, so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. 22 May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning, I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!" 1 Samuel 25:21-22*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"14 One of Nabal servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, 'David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings. But he, hurled insults at them. 15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing went missing. 16 Night and day, they were like a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. 17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him.' 18 So, Abigail acted quickly. 19 And then she told her servants, 'Go on ahead and I'll follow you. But she did not tell her husband, Nabal.'" 1 Samuel 25:14-19*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"And as she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there was David and his men descending toward her, and she met them." 1 Samuel 25:20*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground." 1 Samuel 25:23*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"24 She fell at his feet, and she said, 'Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you and please hear what your servant has to say. 25 Please pay no attention to my husband, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name--his name means Fool and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. 26 And now, my lord, as surely as the Lord your God lives, and as you live, since the Lord, has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands..." 1 Samuel 25:24-26*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"27 And let this gift which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. 28 The Lord your God will certainly make a **lasting dynasty** for my lord, because you fight the Lord's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. 29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the Lord your God." 1 Samuel 25:27-29a*

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"But the lives of your enemies, he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling." 1 Samuel 25:29b*

ON TV/OUTLINE: "30 When the Lord has fulfilled for my lord every good thing, He promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel. 31 My lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. 32 And David said to Abigail, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has **sent you** today to meet me. 33 May you be blessed for your good judgement and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 35 I have heard your words and granted your request.'" 1 Samuel 25:30-33, 35

ON TV: We need people who remind us that we want **immediately** sometimes is going to get in the way of what we want **ultimately**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: "36 When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So, she told him nothing at all until daybreak. 37 Then in the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him, and he became like a stone. 38 About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal, and he died. 39 Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. 42 Abigail quickly got on a donkey and attended by her five female servants, went with David's messengers, and became his wife." 1 Samuel 25:36-39, 42

ON TV:

- "Evil for good"
- "Evil for evil"
- "Good for evil."

ON TV/OUTLINE: "27... Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." Luke 6:27-28

ON TV/OUTLINE: "...because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked." Luke 6:35b

ON TV: Question #1: Do you want to be **even with someone** you don't even like?

ON TV: Question #2: Wouldn't you rather **be ahead**?

ON TV: Question #3: What story do you want to tell in the future, when this is the **story that you tell**?

ON TV: Question #4: What would it look like to return **good for evil**?