



THE GOOD
AND THE BAD
AND THE UGLY

CHARACTER STUDIES

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

¹Samuel died, and all Israel assembled to mourn for him, and they buried him by his home in Ramah. David then went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

²A man in Maon had a business in Carmel; he was a very rich man with three thousand sheep and one thousand goats and was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³The man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name, Abigail. The woman was intelligent and beautiful, but the man, a Calebite, was harsh and evil in his dealings.

THE GOOD

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

⁴While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep, ⁵so David sent ten young men instructing them, "Go up to Carmel, and when you come to Nabal, greet him in my name. ⁶Then say this: 'Long life to you, and peace to you, peace to your family, and peace to all that is yours.'



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

⁷I hear that you are shearing. When your shepherds were with us, we did not harass them, and nothing of theirs was missing the whole time they were in Carmel. ⁸Ask your young men, and they will tell you. So let my young men find favor with you, for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have on hand to your servants and to your son David.' "

⁹David's young men went and said all these things to Nabal on David's behalf, and they waited.



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

¹⁰Nabal asked them, "Who is David? Who is Jesse's son? Many slaves these days are running away from their masters. ¹¹Am I supposed to take my bread, my water, and my meat that I butchered for my shearers and give them to these men? I don't know where they are from."



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

¹²David's young men retraced their steps. When they returned to him, they reported all these words. ¹³He said to his men, "All of you, put on your swords!" So each man put on his sword, and David also put on his sword. About four hundred men followed David while two hundred stayed with the supplies.



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

¹⁴One of Nabal's young men informed Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed at them. ¹⁵The men treated us very well. When we were in the field, we weren't harassed and nothing of ours was missing the whole time we were living among them.



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

¹⁶They were a wall around us, both day and night, the entire time we were with them herding the sheep. ¹⁷Now consider carefully what you should do, because there is certain to be trouble for our master and his entire family. He is such a worthless fool nobody can talk to him!"



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

¹⁸Abigail hurried, taking two hundred loaves of bread, two clay jars of wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. ¹⁹Then she said to her male servants, "Go ahead of me. I will be right behind you." But she did not tell her husband, Nabal.



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

²⁰As she rode the donkey down a mountain pass hidden from view, she saw David and his men coming toward her and met them. ²¹David had just said, "I guarded everything that belonged to this man in the wilderness for nothing. He was not missing anything, yet he paid me back evil for good. ²²May God punish me and do so severely if I let any of his males survive until morning."

THE GOOD

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

²³When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off the donkey and knelt down with her face to the ground and paid homage to David. ²⁴She knelt at his feet and said, "The guilt is mine, my lord, but please let your servant speak to you directly. Listen to the words of your servant. ²⁵My lord should pay no attention to this worthless fool Nabal, for he lives up to his name: His name means 'stupid,' and stupidity is all he knows. I, your servant, didn't see my lord's young men whom you sent.

THE GOOD

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

²⁶Now my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and as you yourself live—it is the Lord who kept you from participating in bloodshed and avenging yourself by your own hand—may your enemies and those who intend to harm my lord be like Nabal. ²⁷Let this gift your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. ²⁸Please forgive your servant's offense, for the Lord is certain to make a lasting dynasty for my lord because he fights the Lord's battles. Throughout your life, may evil not be found in you.

GOOD

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

²⁹"Someone is pursuing you and intends to take your life. My lord's life is tucked safely in the place where the Lord your God protects the living, but he is flinging away your enemies' lives like stones from a sling. ³⁰When the Lord does for my lord all the good he promised you and appoints you ruler over Israel, ³¹there will not be remorse or a troubled conscience for my lord because of needless bloodshed or my lord's revenge. And when the Lord does good things for my lord, may you remember me your servant."

THE GOOD

1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

³²Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today!

³³May your discernment be blessed, and may you be blessed. Today you kept me from participating in bloodshed and avenging myself by my own hand.



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

³⁴Otherwise, as surely as the Lord God of Israel lives, who prevented me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, Nabal wouldn't have had any males left by morning light." ³⁵Then David accepted what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. See, I have heard what you said and have granted your request."



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

³⁶Then Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was in his house, holding a feast fit for a king. Nabal's heart was cheerful, and he was very drunk, so she didn't say anything to him until morning light.

³⁷In the morning when Nabal sobered up, his wife told him about these events. His heart died and he became a stone. ³⁸About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal dead.



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

³⁹When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord who championed my cause against Nabal's insults and restrained his servant from doing evil. The Lord brought Nabal's evil deeds back on his own head."

Then David sent messengers to speak to Abigail about marrying him. ⁴⁰When David's servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, "David sent us to bring you to him as a wife."



1 Samuel 25:1-44 (CSB)

⁴¹She stood up, paid homage with her face to the ground, and said, "Here I am, your servant, a slave to wash the feet of my lord's servants." ⁴²Then Abigail got up quickly, and with her five female servants accompanying her, rode on the donkey following David's messengers. And so she became his wife.

⁴³David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and the two of them became his wives. ⁴⁴But Saul gave his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Palti son of Laish, who was from Gallim.



David

- Complicated - Contrast between his treatment of Saul and of Nebal

David

- Complicated - Contrast between his treatment of Saul and of Nebal
- Courteous

David

- Complicated - Contrast between his treatment of Saul and of Nebal
- Courteous
- Vengeful

David

- Complicated - Contrast between his treatment of Saul and of Nebal
- Courteous
- Vengeful
- Smart/Wise

Abigail- "My Father is Joyous"

- Tragic figure who does not allow her circumstances to change her character

Abigail—"My Father is Joyous"

- Tragic figure who does not allow her circumstances to change her character
- Courageous and Wise

Abigail- "My Father is Joyous"

- Tragic figure who does not allow her circumstances to change her character
- Courageous and Wise
- Loyal and Truthful

Abigail- "My Father is Joyous"

- Tragic figure who does not allow her circumstances to change her character
- Courageous and Wise
- Loyal and Truthful
- Rewarded with a crown

Nebal - "Fool"

- Rejection of David's selection by God & ordination by Samuel

Nebal - "Fool"

- Rejection of David's selection by God & ordination by Samuel
- Disregard for custom and common curtesy

Nebal - "Fool"

- Rejection of David's selection by God & ordination by Samuel
- Disregard for custom and common curtesy
- Greedy and Arrogant

Nebal - "Fool"

- Rejection of David's selection by God & ordination by Samuel
- Disregard for custom and common curtesy
- Greedy and Arrogant
- Drunkard

Nebal - "Fool"

- Rejection of David's selection by God & ordination by Samuel
- Disregard for custom and common curtesy
- Greedy and Arrogant
- Drunkard
- Unwilling to listen to others

David : Complicated • Vengeful
: Courteous • Smart/Wise

Redemptive Arc

David represents two very different roles in the story of redemption. First, he represents a Christian who has let his pride, ego, and passion take leadership in his life. He no longer trusts God to make things right, he will make them right himself. Secondly, he "dimly" represents a Holy God who has been offended by a sinner and is soon to deliver judgement.

THE GOOD

Abigail – "My Father is Joyous"

- Tragic figure who does not allow her circumstances to change her character
- Courageous and Wise
- Loyal and Truthful
- Rewarded with a crown

Redemptive Arc

Abigail represents a Christian Soul Winner. Someone who passionately and persistently mediates the Gospel to those in her sphere of influence. She is even representing a "dim" picture of Christ on the Cross.



Nabal – “Fool”

- Rejection of David’s selection by God & ordination by Samuel
- Disregard for custom and common curtesy
- Greedy and Arrogant
- Drunkard
- Unwilling to listen to others

Redemptive Arc

Nabal represents a worldly sinner. Someone who has repeatedly rejected God and the Holy Spirit concerning his sin and need for salvation.





THE GOOD
AND THE BAD
AND THE UGLY

CHARACTER STUDIES