

1 Samuel 25

Jesus

I. Nabal's Folly

1 Then **Samuel died**; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him **at his home** in Ramah.

- Promised son to Hannah
- Raised with wicked priests
- Heard God's voice as a boy
- Became last judge of Israel. Prophet/Nazarite
- Pleaded w/Israel not to demand a king
- Anointed Saul as king at God's command
- Deposed Saul after Saul's continued rebellion
- Hacked up Agag after Saul would not
- Anointed David King yet always loved Saul

Samuel will be back for a cameo appearance in Ch. 28
Samuel is buried near his Godly mom Hannah Grace

1b... And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

- David goes to En Gedi in SE. Heads 90 miles further south
- **Wilderness of Paran:** Where Hagar/Ishmael dwelt in Gen. 21

2 Now there was a man in **Maon** [Rock of Escape] whose business was in Carmel, and the man was **very rich**. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 The name of the man was **Nabal**, and the name of his wife **Abigail**. And she was a woman of **good understanding** and **beautiful** appearance; but the man was **harsh and evil** in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb...

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|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Nabal | Rich/Harsh/Evil | Fool | Spiritually Insensitive |
| ▪ Abigail | Intelligent/Beautiful/Wise | My father is joy | Spiritually Sensitive |

Nabal has a Sheepshearing Business in Carmel
The place Saul had a statue built of himself

4 When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, 5 David **sent ten young men**; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, **go to Nabal, and greet him in my name**. 6 And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!'

- David/600 guys on the run/tired/hungry
- Sends 10 guys to meet Nabal

1. **Greet him** in my name
2. **Bless him** in my name

Peace to you...peace to your house...Peace to all you have!

7 [Also say to Nabal] ...I have heard that you have shearers. **Your shepherds were with us**, and **we did not hurt them**, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. 8 Ask your young men, and they will tell you.

▪ **Tell Nabal...**

1. **We allowed** your shepherds to stay w/us
2. **We didn't ask** anything of them in return
3. **We protected** them from thieves

David remembered where God brought him from
David treated the shepherds with kindness

If we are not growing spiritually there is a reason
We've forgotten where we came from...

2 Peter 1:9 [If we are not growing in Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly kindness, Love, **then ...**] We have become shortsighted, even to blindness, and have forgotten that it was Jesus who **cleansed us/rescued us from our past sins**.

We grow as we recall where God brought us from
David remembers when he also smelled like sheep

David treated the shepherds as he had desired to be treated
We love our neighbors as we desire to be loved

8b... [Also tell Nabal] Therefore let my young men **find favor in your eyes**, for we come on a **feast day**. Please give whatever comes to your hand to **your servants** and to **your son David**. "

David/Men are famished...Could've just taken from Nabal but did not
So tell Nabal we blessed his guys...how 'bout blessing us?

9 So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, **and waited**. 10 **Then Nabal answered** David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. 11 Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

Who does David think he is?
He sounds like a renegade...Why would I obey him?

Exodus 5:2 Pharaoh said to Moses: **"Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice..."**

Some think questioning who Jesus is settles the matter
Who do men say I AM? Savior. Son of God. God the Son...

Colossians 1:16 [Creator]...**by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

John 14:6 [Way to Heaven] I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

John 10:9 [Life giver] I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that **they may have life**, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Nabal replies...Who is David that I should obey him?

12 So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told [David] all these words.

Will David act by the Holy Spirit's prompting or...
Will David react to the Devil's provocation?

II. David's Anger

13 Then David said to his men, "**Every man gird on his sword.**" So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

Every man gird your sword!
Didn't David learn in Ch 24 not to be hasty?

Proverbs 16:32 *He who is slow to anger* is better than the mighty, And **he who rules his spirit** than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man makes him **slow to anger**, And his glory is to **overlook a transgression.**

Knee-jerk reactions are rarely if ever the will of God
Don't react based on feelings...**Act** in faith after being assured of God's will

Gird your swords! This guy is toast
David is about to do what he already learned not to do...React in haste

- **God sends a woman to intervene**

14 Now one of the [Nabal's] young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and **[Nabal] reviled them.** **15** But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. **16 They were a wall to us** both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep.

Shepherds plead w/Abigail to do something
David/men surrounded us/protected us/Now coming to kill us

- Shepherds continue to speak with Abigail:

17 Now therefore, **know and consider what you will do**, for harm is determined against our master and against all **his household**. For he is such a scoundrel that **one cannot speak to him.**"

He is a worthless man...No one can speak to him!
IOWs He's Foolish...He listens to nobody

Proverbs 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the **people fall**; But in the multitude of counselors there **is safety**.

Proverbs 15:22 **Without counsel, plans go awry**, But in the multitude of counselors they **are established**.

- Listen to Godly wisdom from Godly people
- Make sure you're not listening to stupid people

David is coming to kill all the men of Nabal's house
Know and consider what you will do. IOWs Seek Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and **it will be given to him**. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Know and Consider what you will do
Listen for God. Listen to God. Obey God. Abigail hears/acts...

III. Abigail's Wisdom

18 Then **Abigail made haste** and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 19 And **she said** to her servants, "**Go on before me**; see, I am coming after you." But she **did not tell her husband Nabal**.

Abigail did not act hastily
Abigail made haste after God revealed His will to her

God's will: Intercede for David
First: Bring his men what he asked for

20 So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were **David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.**

David is raging toward Nabal as Abigail is rushing toward David
David seems to be talking to himself...

21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. 22 May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I **leave one male** of all who belong to him by morning light."

I won't leave one male: lit. One who urinates against a wall
I now consider Nabal his men to be like dogs

23 Now when Abigail saw David, she **dismounted quickly** from the donkey, **fell on her face** before David, and **bowed down to the ground**. 24 So she **fell at his feet** and said: "**On me, my LORD**, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But **with the humble is wisdom.**

Wisdom came to David in the firm of Abigail

25 Please, let not my LORD regard this **scoundrel Nabal**. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my LORD whom you sent.

Abigail intercedes for Nabal then David...

26 Now therefore, my LORD, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since **the LORD has held you back** from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my LORD be as Nabal.

Interceding w/Words of Wisdom

- The LORD restrained you from killing King Saul
- May the LORD again restrain you from killing in anger

James 1:19...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for **the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**

As the LORD will eventually deal w/Nabal...let Him also deal w/Saul
Abigails begins to hit every note on David's harp

- **Obedient:** Acts quickly to God's command. Delayed obedience is disobedience
- **Respectful:** Spirit of God is evident. Her strength is found in her humility/fear of God/wisdom

God's Economy: *Strong women* are not the same as *Rebellious women*
Truly strong women are humble, fear God, and wise like Abigail...

27 [Listen to Abigail] And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my Lord, let it be given to the young men who **follow my LORD**.
28 Please **forgive the trespass** of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my Lord an enduring house, because my Lord **fights the battles of the LORD**, and **evil is not found in you** throughout your days.
29 Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but **the life of my Lord** shall be bound in the **bundle of the living** with the Lord your God; and the lives of your enemies **He shall sling out**, as from the pocket of a sling.

David is being taught a good lesson; i.e. our hurt feelings never justify disobedience. When others sin against us we may feel justified in sinning against them but we are never justified by acting on our hurt feelings. [Guzik]

Abigail intercedes for David

First physically: Brings food. Lots. **Next Spiritually:** Offers Godly wisdom...

- I know those who follow you do so because you follow the LORD
- I know you fight real battles for the LORD...this ain't one of them
- I know evil is not found in you...so don't start now by taking innocent blood
- I know you're tempted to take vengeance against Saul/Nabal, and yet...
- I know it will be the LORD who protects you/Destroys your enemies

Your life shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the Lord your God
The lives of your enemies He shall sling out as from the pocket of a sling

Sling? Remember where you came from
Remember it was the Lord who gave you victory w/the sling

30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my LORD according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, 31 that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my LORD, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my LORD has avenged himself.

More Tactful Words of Wisdom
Temporal satisfaction is not worth future grief

- Abigail Appeals to David's love for his God
 1. I know God is giving you the Throne of Israel
 2. I know you want to enjoy being the King
 3. I know you don't want to live w/guilt before God. **So don't do this**

Don't run ahead/Don't fall behind/Move with the Holy Spirit

We win most when we appear to have yielded most. We gain advantages by refusing to take them wrongfully. **The man who can wait for God is a man of power.** [Meyer]

31b... But when the LORD has dealt well with my LORD, then remember your maidservant."

Abigail takes little wisdom for herself...Remember me

32 Then David said to Abigail: "**Blessed is the LORD God of Israel**, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 And **blessed is your advice and blessed are you**, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand. 34 For indeed, as **the LORD God of Israel lives**, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!"

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

Happy is the LORD

- God is happy w/your obedience
- God is happy w/your advice
- God is happy w/your intervention... because you obeyed Him

Blessed are you Abigail and yet...

David knew It was God who ultimately restrained him from disaster

35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have **heeded your voice and respected your person.**"

David received more than food
He received the Priceless Treasure of Godly Wisdom!

Proverbs 2:4 [Wisdom personified as a women] **If you seek her as silver**, And **search for her** as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God.

God intervened through Abigail so David would not act foolishly
Jesus intervenes in our lives everyday by His Spirit revealing Red Flags

36 Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And **Nabal's heart was merry** within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light. 37 So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his

wife had told him these things, that **his heart died** within him, and he became **like a stone**.

Nabal has a stroke: His heart became hard as stone
Abigails' prophesy re. David is fulfilled

V 29 The lives of your enemies He shall sling out [like a stone], as from the pocket of a sling.

38 Then it happened, after about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and **he died**. 39 So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "**Blessed be the LORD**, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For **the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head.**"

- David gives glory to the LORD

Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**" says the Lord.

39b... And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife. 40 When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife." 41 Then **she arose, bowed her face to the earth**, and said, "**Here is your maidservant**, a servant to **wash the feet** of the servants of my LORD." 42 So **Abigail rose in haste** and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, **and became his wife**.

Abigail: Humble/God-fearing/Wise
One of the strongest women in Scripture willing to serve like her Lord

43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives. 44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

- David marries Abigail
- David marries Ahinoam
- David loses Michal...till 2 Sam 3

Because David never really followed God's plan and purpose for marriage, his family life was never blessed and peaceful. Family trouble brought David some of the greatest trials of his life. [Guzik] All in process.

Nabal's Folly. David's Anger. Abigails Wisdom. God's Providence

Proverbs 31:30 ...a woman who fears the Lord, **she shall be praised**.