Wisely Consider Your Choices

1 Samuel 25

Big idea: Runaway anger leads toward lasting regret, but God often uses wise, courageous counsel to restrain us and redirect us toward righteousness. Samuel dies (v. 1), reminding us that life is brief but God's work continues. David and his six hundred men protect flocks in the wilderness. At sheep-shearing time, David respectfully asks Nabal for provisions; Nabal's contempt sets the conflict in motion.

I. A Foolish Farmer: Nabal

1. **Wealthy but wicked** (vv. 2–3): Nabal's abundance does not produce gratitude or generosity.
2. **Proud and unteachable** (vv. 10–11, 17): He mocks David, refuses a reasonable request, and will not receive correction.
3. **Possessive and godless** (v. 25): "My bread, my water, my meat" reveals a man who treats blessings as possessions rather than gifts from God.
4. **Application:** Wealth without worship becomes idolatry. Blessing without generosity hardens the heart.

II. A Furious Soldier: David

1. **Insult triggers overreaction** (vv. 12–13, 22): David takes four hundred armed men against one offender.
2. **Anger narrows vision:** Personal offense makes David act more like Saul than God's future king.
3. **Central irony:** David resisted a murderous enemy in the cave but struggled to resist a wounded pride.
4. **Application:** Pause, pray, seek Scripture, and welcome wise counsel before temporary anger creates permanent regret.

III. A Faithful Wife: Abigail

1. **Discerning and approachable** (vv. 3, 14–17): The servants trust Abigail because she listens.
2. **Courageous and decisive** (vv. 18–19): She moves toward danger with generous provisions. David carries retaliation; Abigail carries reconciliation.
3. **Humble and gracious** (vv. 23–26): Though innocent, she takes responsibility for resolving the crisis and lowers the temperature.
4. **God-centered** (vv. 28–31): She reminds David that God fights his battles, protects his life, and has promised his future.
5. **Forward-looking:** She urges David not to place needless bloodshed in the story he will one day tell. God's providence often looks like the right person bringing the right word at the right moment.

6. **Picture of Christ:** An innocent peacemaker approaches humbly, bears blame, offers a meal of peace, and becomes the means by which many are saved.

IV. David's Response and God's Justice

1. **David receives correction** (vv. 32–35): He praises God, blesses Abigail's judgment, and turns from violence. A godly leader can be corrected.
2. **Nabal wastes what Abigail saves** (vv. 36–38): While she preserves lives, he celebrates in drunken pride. Ten days later, he dies.
3. **God settles the account** (v. 39): David recognizes that the Lord upheld his cause and kept him from wrongdoing. Vengeance belonged to God.
4. **Abigail's character is honored** (vv. 39–42): David asks her to become his wife, and she responds with continued humility.

V. Takeaways

1. **If you are young, choose your mate with wisdom.** Character and spiritual direction matter more than status, possessions, or appearance.
2. **We can become all the things our partners are not.** Abigail refuses to imitate Nabal's spirit; she chooses grace, courage, and wisdom.
3. **Men: don't be a Nabal.** Be teachable, generous, sober-minded, and spiritually responsible.

Conclusion: Wisely Consider Your Choices

- Make choices now that you will not regret later.
- Let prayer, Scripture, and godly counsel guide you when emotion is strongest.
- Living fully for God will never become your great regret.
- Today is the day of salvation: surrender to Christ, receive His forgiveness, and be ready to meet the Lord.