

A Legacy of Wisdom: The Long View

1 Samuel 25

INTRODUCTION: Both of us were blessed to have godly fathers in our home, and saw marriages that lasted over 40 years. The sad reality is that 2 out of every 3 African American children will not have the blessing of being raised by both biological parents under the same roof. Our Lord is the one who puts the solitary into families, (Psalm 68:6) so it is important that our local churches have members who know how to “re-parent” those who still need the blessing of a father.

BACKGROUND: Samuel was a respected and revered prophet, priest, judge, and father in Israel. His legacy has a lasting impact as we are still learning valuable lessons from his life. Although his biological sons did not follow his example, he had a lasting spiritual influence on many others, including Saul and David. (1st Samuel 8:1-5)

I. BEWARE OF HOW DISPLACED ANGER CAN RUIN YOUR LEGACY AS A FATHER. (1ST SAMUEL 25:1-13)

- A. David was anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel at a young age. However, he would spend over a decade waiting to take the throne. During that time, he was persecuted and chased through the wilderness by King Saul, who was insanely jealous of his chosen successor.

- B. David and the men who served as his guardsmen in the wilderness provided protection for the flocks of a wealthy man named Nabal. David was treated rudely and insulted by Nabal, and the same man who had endured years of mistreatment from King Saul, was ready for road rage against Nabal and his servants. This was a prime example of displaced anger, and it could have been a disaster were it not for a woman named Abigail.

II. ABIGAIL WAS FULL OF GRACE AND WISDOM, AND KNEW WHAT TO SAY TO DAVID AND WHAT NOT TO SAY TO HER HUSBAND. (1st Samuel 25:14-35)

- A. Nabal’s servants knew they could approach Abigail with their life and death dilemma because Nabal was a foolish man with a drinking problem. Every man who is supposed to be a spiritual leader for his wife and children needs to remember that foolish decisions always puts others in danger.

- B. Where do you find the wisdom to reason with an angry person? The Scriptures have the answer! (1st Samuel 25:33-34) (Proverbs 15:1) (Ephesians 4:26) (Colossians 3:8)

III. ABIGAIL WAS WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU CANNOT REASON WITH SOMEONE WHO IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS. WE NEED FATHERS WHO ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! (1st Samuel 25:36-44)

A. It is one thing to know what to say, but spiritual discernment is needed to learn how and when to share needed information. Abigail waited until her husband was sober before speaking with him, and the Lord dealt severely with Nabal. (1st Samuel 25: 36-38)

B. David recognized the godly wisdom of Abigail and realized the Lord had used her to keep him from killing innocent men and ruining his legacy. Good fathers learn to appreciate the wisdom and insights of godly women, and humble themselves to receive counsel when needed. (Genesis 16:2)

CONCLUSION

God took vengeance on Nabal and vindicated David, and Abigail was free to remarry. David made a wise choice in taking her as a wife. He should have clung to her as his Queen, yet he dishonored the Lord by taking multiple wives. David did not do everything right, but he never lost a battle when he was fighting for the Lord and doing His will. Let's choose to do the same.

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