

Abigail

Beauty and the Beast

[1 Sam. 25:1-44]

1. The story of Abigail begins with _____ and his men going down to the wilderness of Paran after mourning the death of the prophet _____ [1 Sam. 25:1]. David was fleeing from king Saul who wanted to _____ him. Because of king Saul's disobedience, God instructed Samuel to anoint David to be the next _____ of Israel. Saul's _____ of David led him to hunt David throughout Israel causing David and his men to be constantly on the _____ to avoid Saul's fury [1 Sam. 18:7-9, 28-29].
2. In the area where David and his men were hiding, there lived a man by the name of Nabal. The scripture says he was very _____ (great)— having 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats. Nabal's name means _____ and he was appropriately named. Psalm 14:1a describes a fool as "a fool hath said in his heart, there is _____ God." Nabal showed this in both word and deed. He was churlish (vulgar, rude) and _____ in his doings. He was married to a woman named Abigail [1 Sam. 25:2-3]. ***See Insert A.**
3. Abigail's name means cause of _____ or father of joy. She was a woman that was greatly _____ by everyone who knew her. However, Abigail's marriage to Nabal was unfortunately a very _____ one. She was married to an _____ man — a man who knew not God. Scripture says he was "a son of Belial" [1 Sam 25:17]. Although he was rich and provided for Abigail's needs, he was a very _____ man to live with. ***See Insert B.** According to the custom of that day, marriages were _____ by the parents. The men had a choice but the women had _____ to say about their marriage partner. The women were obligated to obey and _____ their parents' decision. Marriages were often arranged for economical, political, religious, and/or social reasons.
4. Abigail was a woman of good _____ and possessed a beautiful countenance. She had beauty as well as _____. Her wisdom was not just an intellectual wisdom, but a _____ wisdom given from God above. W. Mackintosh Mackey said, "There are two qualities that are essential to one who has to manage men — the _____ of a wise wife and the _____ principles of a good woman."
5. When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep in Carmel, David sent his men to greet Nabal in David's name and _____ them in what they were to say to Nabal. David's request for food not only came at an _____ time of year [sheep shearing time was a time of generous _____], but his

request to Nabal was a very _____ one according to the custom of the times. The shearing of sheep was important for wool for it was an _____ commodity in the Canaan culture [1 Sam. 25:4-6].

6. Since David and his men protected Nabal's shepherds from _____ parties, Nabal should have been more than willing to give them what they needed in appreciation for their _____. Scripture says David's men were so diligent in watching over Nabal's shepherds and sheep that _____ was missing among Nabal's possessions. During sheep shearing time, food and drink were abundantly prepared for the shepherds, the sheep shearers, the owners of the flocks and any _____ who had a part in bringing about the prosperity associated with this time of year. David and his men played a _____ part in Nabal's prosperity. Therefore, it was only right that Nabal _____ David for his protection [1 Sam. 25:7-9]. *See Insert C.
7. Nabal, being the fool that he was, showed _____ to David and his men by his imprudent response. Nabal, first of all, _____ God's hand upon David's life even though he knew that David had previously been anointed by the prophet _____ to be the next king of Israel. Secondly, Nabal refused to give food and totally _____ the fact of David's protection over his possessions. Nabal was not only an angry, _____ man but he was self-centered for he placed his family and servants in great _____ [1 Sam. 25:10-11].
8. David's men returned and told him all that Nabal said. David was extremely _____ by Nabal's response, and David in turn sought immediate _____ upon Nabal for his insolence. David ordered his 400 men to take up their swords and be prepared to fight. Because David did not look to God and _____ about this situation, David was on the brink of committing a crime that would cast an irreparable shadow on him for the rest of his life. David's _____ toward Nabal are found in 1 Sam 25:21-22]. Little did David realize that God in His sovereignty would bring Abigail into his path to keep him from making a terrible _____ that he would surely _____ as the future king of Israel [1 Sam 25:12-13].
9. Nabal's servants knew that his rude response to David would bring grave _____ to Nabal and his household. One of the servants went immediately to Abigail for he knew she was a woman of _____. He told her how Nabal was verbally abusive to David's men, and then explained how David's men were very _____ in protecting the shepherds and the sheep. They were like a _____ of protection to Nabal's men [1 Sam. 25:14-16]. He appealed to Abigail to do something for he believed Abigail would act _____ in such an emergency, and the servant was right. Abigail quickly grasped the situation and moved rapidly to _____ the matter at hand [1 Sam. 25:17].

10. Abigail gathered provisions for David's men, and had her servants place them on the animals' backs. She sent her _____ and the animals with the food and drink before her to _____ David's anger by coming to meet him in a friendly way. Because Abigail could not reason with her husband, she did all this without the _____ of Nabal so she could plead for her husband's life and the lives of her _____ [1 Sam. 25:18-19].
11. When Abigail saw David, she quickly dismounted and _____ low before him. This was the highest form of _____ for the lesser to greet the greater. She gave him the honor due to the future _____ of Israel and servant of God. By her _____ and her language, she made the fullest amends for the disrespect shown by her husband. Abigail addresses David by taking all the guilt upon herself—hoping David would not carry out his _____. Abigail, being the woman she was, felt _____ for the rude actions of her husband and was _____ to him despite adverse circumstances in her home situation [1 Sam. 25:20, 23-25]. *See Insert D.
12. Abigail endeavors to bring David to a _____ state of mind by presenting three arguments: 1) She points to _____ leading in keeping David from committing murder; 2) She points to God as the _____ and 3); She points to the provisions she brought for David's men. Proverbs 18:16 states, "A man's gift maketh _____ for him, and bringeth him before great men." Abigail accomplished what she sought out to do — to _____ his heart and _____ off his fury [1 Sam. 25:26-27].
13. Abigail then directs David's attention to the rich _____ God had in store for him as the future king of Israel. 1) _____ would keep His promises and fight his battles, 2) God would protect David and take care of his enemies, and 3) God will make David king as _____. Abigail points to God's sovereign hand of protection by using the phrase— "bound in the bundle of life" referring to a _____ where a person placed valuables in a bundle to protect them from injury. So, it is with God. He _____ for His own as a man cares for his own treasures [1 Sam. 25:28-29]. *See Insert E.
14. Abigail wisely encouraged David that the _____ shedding of blood was not to be in his best interest. She assured David that when God fulfills His promises in his life, there would be no _____ or regrets on his part if he would not commit this evil. Abigail's spiritual _____ convinced David not to commit the crime he intended to do against Nabal. She then asks David to _____ her in the future when he becomes ruler of Israel [1 Sam. 25:30-31].
15. David _____ recognized that Abigail was sent by God to keep him from doing this vengeful crime against Nabal and offered _____ to God for sending her to him. He thanked Abigail for her _____ advice, and he graciously

received her gift of food for his men. David then assured Abigail to return to her house in _____ with the assurance that he granted her request for _____. He would not carry out his act of vengeance he planned against Nabal [1 Sam.25:32-35]. *See Insert F.

16. When Abigail arrived home from meeting with David, she found Nabal in a drunken state and _____ waited till the next morning to tell Nabal what she had done. She realized no reasoning could be done with a _____ fool. She circumspectly comes before Nabal the next morning and tells him what she had done. Nabal became as stone. Ten days later, God put an end to Nabal's life by sending him another _____. God sent divine judgement on Nabal for the _____ way he treated His servant, David. God's judgement upon Nabal released Abigail from the bounds of a difficult situation — her _____ to Nabal [1 Samuel 25: 36-38].
17. When David learned about Nabal's death, he immediately recognized that it was _____ who vindicated him against Nabal's reproach, and he _____ God for God's protection and faithfulness. He also realized that it was God who kept him from doing _____ that day by bringing Abigail into his life to keep him from committing a great sin against the _____. David, no doubt, admired her for her loyalty, graciousness and discernment.
18. David did _____ Abigail's request. Sometime after Nabal's death, David talked with Abigail and asked her to _____ him. She reverently and humbly accepted his proposal. When David's servants came for her, she _____ left her home in Maon, taking five of her maidens with her. Not only was she able to provide the material _____ he needed to meet his many manifold obligations, but she brought with her great spiritual _____. She, no doubt, became an important asset not only to David personally but also to his family and _____ kingdom [1 Sam. 25:39-42]. *See Insert G.
19. Abigail was humbled to be _____ as David's wife for she acknowledged that God had anointed him to be the next king of Israel after Saul. She then became the wife of the most _____ king of Israel. As God blessed David and his _____ grew as a leader, he took more wives. Abigail was one of David's _____ wives. Abigail gave birth to David's second son, Chileab. Chileab is also called Daniel in scriptures which means "God is my _____". *See Insert H.

Conclusion: Abigail was a woman who was _____ admired by all that knew her. She was a woman who was well-respected by her servants and known for her spiritual wisdom, _____ and courage.

She was beautiful in both spirit and in _____ . She was also a woman who knew God and trusted the Lord in every area of her life. A woman most _____ to be called a wife of Israel's greatest king — King David — who was known as a man after God's own heart.

Inserts for the Study of Abigail

Insert A

All the Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, p. 23, regarding Nabal's ill disposition:

Churlish means, a bear of a man, harsh, rude and brutal. . . He was likewise avaricious [greedy] and selfish. Rich and increased with goods and gold, he thought only of his possessions. . . Nabal was a drunken wretch. . . Unmanageable and stubborn and ill-tempered. Doubtless he was often "very drunken." This wretch of a man was likewise an unbeliever, "a son of Belial" who bowed his knee to the god of this world and not to the God of his fathers

Insert B

All the Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, p. 23, describing Abigail's character:

But with Abigail, loveliness and intelligence went hand in hand, with her intelligence emphasizing her physical attractiveness. . . Added to her charm and wisdom was that of piety. She knew God, and although she lived in such an unhappy home, she remained a saint. . . True to the significance of her own name she experienced that in God her Father there was a source of joy enabling her to be independent of the adverse, trying circumstances of her miserable home life.

Insert C

Ryrie Study Bible Expanded Edition, p. 471 regarding the custom of sheep shearing time:

"A good day" [v.8] was referring to a day of prosperity and celebration at (sheep) shearing time (cf. v.36). David and his men had been protecting the flocks and possessions of Nabal (25:15-16, 21) in return for provisions, and paydays had finally arrived.

Insert D

All the Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, p. 24, talks about Abigail making amends for her husband's rude actions:

Abigail had often to make amends for the infuriated outbursts of her husband. . .when she humbly approached with a large peace offering, her calmness soothed David's anger and gave her the position of advantage. . . Possessing heavenly intelligence, self-control, common sense and vision, she exercised boundless influence over a great man, and marked herself out as a truly great woman.

Insert E

Barnes' Notes on the Old & New Testaments, p. 60 regarding Abigail's plea to David:

"For the Lord will make . . . a sure house". Abigail's firm persuasion of David's kingdom stands upon the same footing as Rahab's conviction of God's gift of Canaan to the Israelites (Josh. 2:9-13). Both testified to God's revelation and their own faith. This is doubtless the reason why Abigail's speech is recorded.

Insert F

All the Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, p. 25 noting David's response to Abigail:

When David said to Abigail, "Blessed be thy advice," he went on to confess with his usual frank generosity that he had a been wrong in giving way to wild, ungovernable passion. If Abigail had not interceded he would have carried out his purpose and destroyed the entire household of Nabal, which massacre would have included Abigail.

Insert G

All the Women of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, p. 25 regarding Abigail's faith in God's promise regarding David:

Matthew Henry's comment at this point is, "Abigail married David in faith, not questioning but that, though now he had not a house of his own, yet God's promise to him would at length be fulfilled." Abigail brought to David not only "a fortune in herself," but much wealth so useful to David in the meeting of his manifold obligations.

Insert H

Barnes' Notes on the Old & New Testaments, p. 61 regarding David's taking more wives:

In the list of David's wives, Ahinoam is mentioned first (2 Sam. 3:2, 1 Chron. 3:1). But this may only be because her son was the first-born. David's now taking two wives was an indication of his growing power and importance as a chieftain. The number was increased to six when he reigned in Hebron (1 Chron. 3:1), and still further when he became king of all Israel (2 Sam. 5:12,13)