



The KING - Part 3

Abigail

1 Samuel 25:2-42, 1 Peter 3:9-11, Matthew 5:43-44

June 12th, 2019



The KING Series GRAPHIC

We are three weeks into the life of David

When he was just a boy - anointed as the NEXT King of Israel

Eventually become the 2nd King of Israel

Arguably the GREATEST King of Israel

Started as a Shepherd Boy with a Sling - Killed a Giant

INSTANTLY became a LEGEND

Married the King's Daughter

Best Friends with the King's Son

The King's most competent leader and feared soldier

BUT - King Saul was JEALOUS and Insecure

Finally decided he needed to take David out

Send David on the run for **EIGHT YEARS in WILDERNESS**

LAST WEEK - we left our Hero making a HUGE Mistake

While he was Angry, Alone and Afraid

He RAN and he LIED

That cost 85 Priests and the entire town of Nob their lives

And all of this could have been avoided with the **GOLDEN RULE**

Hadn't been written yet by Jesus (Matthew 7:12)

Sums up ALL The Law and Prophets from Old Testament

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

This sounds like a great IDEA

We all agree that this would probably be the right thing to do

Until.....someone doesn't treat us the way we would treat them

The Golden Rule sounds fantastic until someone mistreats you,

And then it turns into:

Do unto others as others have done unto you.

When we have been mistreated - it seems NATURAL to respond in like kind

If someone treats you bad
You treat them bad

And that doesn't sound that bad - sounds kinda fair
Until you realize that sometimes you can't
'Do unto others as others have done unto you.'

Maybe you CAN'T treat the person bad that is treating you bad.
And so you take it out on someone else entirely

Maybe it's your boss
Treats you like crap - but you gotta have a job
So you come home and take it out on your family

Maybe it's your parents
Maybe it's your kids
Maybe it's a close friend
YOU take it out on SOMEONE ELSE

Maybe its an entire area of your life
You were mistreated in ONE AREA
You can't do anything about that
So you find another area where you can be in control

When we feel powerless in one relationship/environment
We compensate in another.

You manage to not react to them the way they act toward you
But it is spilling over into other relationships
It happens ALL THE TIME

We want to get even.

We want to even the score.
We want to strike back - it's natural

I don't want to appear weak.
I don't want to set myself up to be taken advantage of.

You have your story:

At work, family, ex-husband, irresponsible sister or brother.

It's fun to daydream about getting even
- but here is the problem (Andy Stanley):

The problem with getting even is that it makes you even.

with someone you don't even like.

Why would you want to be even with them?

You think they SUCK!

It gives **them** the control. It sets **you** back.

In the story of King David

He is put in a place where getting even seems like the right decision

David is on the run - being hunted as a fugitive - Outlaw

He is trying to be the man God called him to be

But he is getting tired

And David does the right thing

And someone STILL treats him and his men BADLY

And David WANTS to get EVEN

David is REALLY close to making another TRAGIC Mistake

BUT...he is saved by a woman (happens a lot for us guys)

It's an incredible story:

1 Samuel 25:2-3

A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very **wealthy**. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was **Nabal**...

Sheering season = annual financial report.

Nabal would know where he was financially

If he turned a profit and if so, how much.

1 Samuel 25:3

His name was Nabal and his wife's name was **Abigail**. She was an **intelligent and beautiful woman**, but her **husband** was **surly and mean** in his dealings—he was a Calebite.

Surly: Harsh. Heavy. Burden to deal with. A pain.

'Nabal' meant: Fool

I Samuel 25:4-6

While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. So he sent ten young men and said to them, “Go up to Nabal at Carmel and **greet him** in my name. Say to him: ‘Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!

Nabal should be in a good mood. He just found out that he is RICH!

I Samuel 25:7

“Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, **we did not mistreat them**, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing.

If Nabal had a profitable sheering season

It was due in part to David’s protection thru the year.

I Samuel 25:8

Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore **be favorable toward my men**, since we come at a festive time.

Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.’”

Since we were good to you, perhaps you would share with us.

Knowing we could have taken it any time we wished.

I Samuel 25:9-10

When David’s men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David’s name. Then **they waited**.

Nabal answered David’s servants, “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days.

He’s an outlaw. A fugitive. A rogue.

I didn’t ask for his help. I don’t owe him.

I Samuel 25:11-12

Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?”

David’s men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they **reported** every word.

David was NOT happy

He was offended

He had TRIED to do the right thing

He was STILL being disrespected

I Samuel 25:13

David said to his men, “Each of you **strap on your sword!**” So they did, and David strapped his on as well.

About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

Did you know self-control was a muscle? You can wear it out.

Most of our patience is already FATIGUED

But ONE incident can send you into FAILURE

**This month - Dog Exit Strategy - Broke Leg - Breaking Point*

David’s was worn out. Life on the run.

He KNEW he was supposed to be the next King

He should be living in the Palace, not the caves

He had done so much for his country

He was STILL not respected - accepted as a hero

Maybe his frustration got misdirected.

Hurt people hurt people.

Maybe hunted people hunt people.

But this incident with Nabal was the straw that broke the camel’s back

He was already FATIGUED

This sent his patience into FAILURE

He rides along with 400 fighting men to show them who is boss

The entire time he is building his case to justify what he’s not sure he should be doing. **Ever do that?**

This story was setup to be David’s NEXT Big Regret

Thankfully - there is another character besides David and Nabal

I Samuel 25:14-15

One of the servants told **Abigail**, Nabal’s wife, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he **hurled insults** at them.

Yet these men were very **good to us**. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing.

I Samuel 25:16-17

Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them.

Now think it over and see what you can do, because **disaster is hanging over** our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him.”

What David said is correct

These men WERE Good to us

But now.....I don't think they will be so nice to us

YOU (Abigail) MUST do something!!!

I Samuel 25:18-19

Abigail **acted quickly**. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five measures (seahs) of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, “Go on ahead; I'll follow you.” But **she did not tell her husband** Nabal.

I Samuel 25:20-22

As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them.

David had just said, “It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. **He has paid me back evil for good**. May God deal with David be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!”

I Samuel 25:23-

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and **bowed down before David** with her face to the ground.

Strange. Rich woman. Rogue. Got his attention. Smart.

She treats David as if he is already the man she hopes he will become.

***Ladies, make a note:**

This works even when we know what you're doing.

“You are strong! I bet you can roll that trash to the street with one arm.”

Man or Woman - words of affirmation are HUGE

It is POWERFUL when we give someone the benefit of the doubt
BOWing is a Cultural Thing - but encouragement is Universal

I Samuel 25:24-25

She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.

Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool and folly goes with him.

And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent.

I Samuel 25:26

And now, my lord, as surely as the Lord your God lives and as you live, **since the Lord has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands**, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal.

***Jedi Mind Trick:**

She gives him credit for being better than he was about to be.

She heard how he had spared Saul in the cave.

There is SO MUCH power in that!!!

I Samuel 25:27-28

And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. **“Please forgive** your servant’s presumption. The Lord your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the Lord’s battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live.

I Samuel 25:29

Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the Lord your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the **pocket of a sling**.

Takes him back to the valley of Elah - GIANT

Reminds him of the man he HAS been in the past and CAN be in the future

Then she speaks to his future. She asks without asking,

“What story do you want to tell when this is nothing but a story you tell?”

It is important for YOU - when your patience is at a breaking point

To ask yourself how you want to remember this season of your life

I Samuel 25:30-31

When the Lord has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, **my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself**. And when the Lord your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant.”

David comes to his senses. Emotional temperature drops.

He realizes that if it were not for this brilliant, discerning, affirming woman that he would have made a HUGE Mistake

I Samuel 25:32-33

David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.

May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.”

I Samuel 25:34-35

Otherwise, as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. **I have heard your words and granted your request.**”

I Samuel 25:36-38

When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until daybreak.

Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his **heart failed him** and he became like a stone.

About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and **he died**.

Probably had a heart attack or a stroke when he realized how close he was to David coming in to kill every man, woman, and child in his household

I Samuel 25:39&42

When David heard that Nabal was dead, hesent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife.

Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five female servants, went with David’s messengers and became his wife.

And they lived happily ever after . . . THE END (not really)

In Context: she went to become ONE of David’s Wives

Three Characters. Three Responses. One hero.

Nabal: Evil for good (Maniacal)

David: Evil for evil (Predictable)

Abigail: Good for evil (Remarkable)

Abigail was ahead of her time.

Old Covenant: Eye for an eye - NORMAL - Predictable
Abigail's response to this situation was COUNTER Cultural

In fact, sounds a lot like something that would happen in New Testament

New Testament/New Covenant turned it all upside down.

Outlined a NEW Way to respond to someone that treats you bad

What Abigail did - sounds like something JESUS would do

In fact, Peter, who saw Jesus unjustly crucified

Wrote to persecuted Christians in the first century (1000 years later)

1 Peter 3:9

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a **blessing**.

Blessing: Favor; word or deed.

Then he quotes an older, more mature King David/Psalm 34:

1 Peter 3:10-11

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

They must **turn from evil and do good**; they must seek peace and pursue it.

Where did Peter get such a crazy idea? From Jesus.

JESUS:

Matthew 5:43-45

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you," **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Refusing with love to people who have NOT loved you

Probably the most Christ-like thing you can do

Three questions. Two for everybody. One for the Christians:

Do I really want to be even with someone I don't even like?

To get even with someone you don't like
is to be like someone you don't like.
I don't think you'll like that.

Even is easy.

Wouldn't it be better to be **ahead**?
You pull ahead by refusing to get even.

Each offense provides you with two options:
to get even or to pull ahead;
to be like your Father in heaven or to be like the person who hurt you.

You pull others ahead by refusing to get even.
You pull the relationship ahead by refusing to get even.

You will either settle for getting even, or you will pull ahead and create an opportunity for someone else to move ahead as well—either the person who offended you . . . or someone who is watching you.

Stop getting EVEN!
Do something that will PUT YOU AHEAD
And pull others in a better direction!

What story do I want to tell?

When this is nothing but a story to tell
I got even!?!?
She embarrassed me . . .
He took credit for my idea . . .
Threw me under the bus . . .

SO.....I did what they did!
That's predictable and unremarkable.

Live this season of life in a way that will make you WANT to remember it!
True for **David** and YOU

What would it look like for you to return good for evil?

To use Peter's words, "to bless somebody who has hurt/offended you."

You can show MERCY: do nothing

Mercy is NOT giving someone what they deserve

OR....you can show GRACE: do something

Grace is giving someone something GOOD that they don't deserve

What could you do to be a blessing to someone who has offended you?

So...THAT is my encouragement for today:

Do something for someone that they DO NOT deserve

And I know that this is a REALLY arrogant thing to say -own authority

If I heard what THEY did to YOU - I would probably go help you do evil

BUT...I'm not telling you to do this, because I did it for someone else

I'm telling you to do this, because Jesus did it for YOU

THAT is the measure and standard

Jesus took YOUR sin upon Himself

He relayed GOOD for Evil - for all eternity

Christians:

This is our best opportunity to be like our Father in heaven.

It's how our story intersects with the greatest story ever told:

God returning good for evil—his Son for our sin.

Generosity and compassion = American/expected.

But this?

Takes you from predictable to . . . Remarkable

I WANT TO BE REMARKABLE

I WANT YOU TO BE REMARKABLE

GOD WANTS YOUR LIFE TO BE REMARKABLE

REMARKABLE happens when we return GOOD for EVIL

REMARKABLE happens when we return GOOD for EVIL

It'll set you free.

It'll set you apart.

Don't settle for even.

Even is easy.

Don't write a predictable story.

Make it remarkable.

Do for others precisely what they don't deserve for you to do.

Like your Father in heaven did for YOU.

PRAYER