

Uncommon: Different on Purpose

Uncommon Peace
1 Samuel 25:2-39

Over the past few weeks, we've explored uncommon characteristics God gives His people. Uncommon Wisdom (Solomon), Faith (Elijah), Hope (Woman with the issue of blood), Love (Naomi/Ruth), Courage (Daniel), and today is Uncommon Peace.

Main Idea: Uncommon peace empowers us to be peacemakers in a conflicted world.

3 Observations and Applications on Uncommon Peace from 1 Samuel 25:2-39

I. Peacemakers Approach Conflict with Discernment

*"Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, 'Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name. And thus you shall greet him: "Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'" When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited. And Nabal answered David's servants, 'Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?' So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. And David said to his men, 'Every man strap on his sword!' And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage." **1 Samuel 25:1-13***

Approaches to dealing with conflict:

- a) Escape (Peace-faking)
- b) Attack (Peace-breaking)
- c) Peacemaking

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." **Matthew 5:9***

*"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." **Galatians 5:19-23***

Conflict is an opportunity to reflect the peace we've been given in Christ.

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II. Peacemakers Engage Conflict with Selflessness

"But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, 'Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master; and he railed at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him.' Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. And she said to her young men, 'Go on before me; behold, I come after you.' But she did not tell her husband Nabal. And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. Now David had said, 'Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him.' When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. She fell at his feet and said, 'On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your

servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant.” **1 Samuel 25:14–31**

How does Abigail work towards peace in this moment:

- a) Choose forgiveness (v24, 28a)
- b) Celebrate the good in the people involved (v26-27, 28b)
- c) Find common ground (v18, 29)

“So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” **Romans 14:19**

- d) Speak the truth with love and respect (v30-31)

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” **Ephesians 4:15**

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” **Colossians 4:6**

- e) Point to God and His promises (v30-31)

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” **James 1:19–20**

“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.” **Ephesians 4:26-27**

Main Idea: Uncommon peace empowers us to be peacemakers in a conflicted world.

III. Peacemakers leave the results to God

“And David said to Abigail, ‘Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! For as

surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male.’ Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, ‘Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition.’ And Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, 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. So she told him nothing at all until the morning light. In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. And about ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, ‘Blessed be the LORD who has avenged the insult I received at the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing. The LORD has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head.’ Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife.” **1 Samuel 25:32–40**

“...we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.” **1 Corinthians 9:12**

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” **Romans 12:17-21**

Love others, offer peace, trust God, and let Him do His work.

Main Idea: Uncommon peace empowers us to be peacemakers in a conflicted world. Conflict is unavoidable. What posture do you take when it comes?

- Throw your hands up and run?
- Raise your fists up to fight?
- Reach your arms out to share the peace of God, given to you.

“and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” **Colossians 1:20**

“Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” **Hebrews 7:20**

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)

- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- *New American Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel* – Robert D. Bergen (1996)
- *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel* – Heath Thomas and J. D. Greear (2016)
- *The Peacemaker* – Ken Sande (2004)
- *Peacemaking* – Jim Van Yperen (2002)
- *Crucial Conversations* – Grenny, Patterson, McMillan, Switzler, Gregory (2022)
- *Holman Concise Bible Commentary* – David S. Dockery (1998)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson (1994)
- *Baker Commentary of the Bible* – Walter A. Elwell (1989)
- [Gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)