

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 11 – Who Can Talk To You? 1 Samuel 25

I. DAVID’S EXPECTATION 1 Sam. 25:1-9

A. THE MAN TO WHOM NO ONE COULD SPEAK v2,3

- “Nabal” = fool; “Nabal is his name, and folly is with him!” v25
- “very rich” = *fabulously* wealthy; cf. Job 1:3
- “harsh” = hard, cruel, stubborn; metaphor of a yoke: 1 Ki. 12:4
- “of the house of Caleb” = same root as dog - hence “doglike!”
- “scoundrel” lit. “man of Belial” v17, 25 = without worth or weight!
- “one cannot speak to him” v17 cf. Ps. 14:1

B. THE WOMAN WHO WAS BEAUTIFUL AND MEEK v3

1. HER BEAUTIFUL APPEARANCE

- “of a beautiful appearance” - lit. “lovely in form”
- Used of Rachel in Genesis 29:17 and Esther in Esther 2:7.

2. HER RESPECTFUL APPROACH

- “of good understanding” i.e. intelligent and discerning.
- Note the humility with which she comes before David and how she refers to herself as a “*maidservant*” in v23-31. (5 X’s)
- “Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” v41

C. THE PROVISIONS WHICH DAVID WOULD SEEK v4-9

- In that David’s men had been “a wall” for Nabal’s shepherds, David came in peace, seeking favor, and requesting that the blessings of sheep-shearing be shared with them. cf. v15-16

II. NABAL’S OPPOSITION 1 Sam. 25:10-13

A. THE REJECTION OF DAVID’S REQUEST v10-11

- “Who is David?” - With scorn, like David for Goliath. cf. 17:26
- “son of Jesse” - Like Saul’s belittling references. cf. 20:27; 22:7
- Nabal refuses to provide even the most basic food and drink.
- His self-emphasis foreshadows “the rich fool” of Luke 12:16-21.

B. THE REACTION TO NABAL’S OFFENSE v12-13

- David orders immediate retaliation; “Put on your swords!”
- The natural response to offense is to strike back!
 - Listen to David’s “self-talk” in v21,22 cf. 1 Sam. 30:17
 - “He has repaid me evil for good.” cf. Rom. 12:17, 19
- David is being constantly offended! How shall he respond?
- How do you respond to offence and unjust “pay-backs?”
 - Jesus said to him, “Put away your sword!” Matt. 26:52

III. ABIGAIL'S MEDIATION 1 Sam. 25:14-31

A. HER INTERVENTION v14-17

- Whereas Nabal was unwilling to listen to anyone (v17), Abigail heeds the word of one of her servants! cf. 2 Ki. 5:1-4
- Who do you allow to speak into your life?
Are you willing to hear correction and/or direction?
 - cf. Prov. 1:5,7; 12:15; 15:5; 18:2; 23:9
 - *Better a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king, who will be admonished no more.* Eccl. 4:13

B. HER ARBITRATION v18-20

- Abigail prepares a gift to appease David and his men, and to stay David's hand from slaughtering the household (v17) as Saul ordered Doeg to slaughter Ahimelech and all of his household and inhabitants of Nob. cf. 1 Sam. 22:18-19

C. HER INTERCESSION v23-27

- *"upon me let this iniquity be"*
- *"If he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account!"* Phile. 1:18

D. HER PROCLAMATION v28-31

- Abigail begins to speak "prophetically" concerning David and his ascension to the throne!

E. HER SUPPLICATION v31

- Her final request is that David remember her when he becomes king, something David is more than happy to do.

IV. DAVID'S JUBILATION 1 Sam. 25:32-43

A. GOD'S HAND RECOGNIZED

- Unlike Nabal, David is able to be spoken to and reasoned with! cf. Prov. 12:15; Jam. 3:17
- David praises the Lord for restraining him from avenging himself by carnal means. cf. 1 Sam. 24:12, 25:26, 31, 33

B. GOD'S WRATH REALIZED

- Whereas David was going to slaughter the entire household, God's anger was poured out on Nabal, as it will be upon all "fools." cf. Prov. 10:21; 15:10; 26:10

C. GOD'S MAN REVITALIZED

- Although Samuel, David's mentor, is dead, and Saul had given his daughter Michal to another man, David is given a graceful, God-fearing wife, who thought herself not worthy of such an honor!