

A Better Way

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Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him... 1 Samuel 25:1

...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. 1 Samuel 25:2-3

David's reasonable request. (1 Samuel 25:4-8)

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Nabal's rude response. (1 Samuel 25:10-12)

David's rash reaction. (1 Samuel 25:13,21-22)

- Difficult people know how to push our buttons.
- **When we get even with people, we become like the people we don't even like.** (Proverbs 26:4)

Abigail's respectful reminder. (1 Samuel 25:26-28)

...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. ... "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. 1 Samuel 25:26-28

David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. ³³ May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 1 Samuel 25:32-33

- **What story do you want your life to tell?**

You can trust God to take care of the difficult people in your life. (1 Sam 25:36-38)

- **Who do you want your life to resemble?**
 - Nabal - Evil for good | David - Evil for evil | Abigail - Good for evil

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

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. 1 Pt 3:9

Let's Connect

- How competitive are you?

Let's Talk About It

We all have *difficult people* in our lives. It's easy to love and show kindness to those who are loving and kind toward us. It becomes a lot harder when we're hurt or mistreated. The temptation is to seek revenge or payback, but Jesus teaches us to live differently. Abigail demonstrated extreme wisdom when she confronted David and helped him choose a better path that would tell a better life story by repaying evil with good instead of evil with evil. You can trust God to take care of the difficult people in your life.

John 13:34-35; 1 Samuel 25; Luke 6:31; Proverbs 26:4; 1 Peter 3:9; Matthew 5:43; Luke 23:34

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read 1 Samuel 25:4-12. Has someone gotten even with you after you showed them kindness? What happened? How did you respond?
- Read 1 Samuel 25:26-33. Who are you in this story? Discuss how Abigail intervened and demonstrated wisdom in this situation. What can you learn from her example?
- Read Luke 6:31. Why is it hard to "do good" to those who hurt you? What would it look like to trust God to deal with the difficult people in your life?
- Read 1 Peter 3:9. Is there someone you need to forgive or a grudge you need to let go of? Is there a relationship in which you struggle to bring blessing and "do good"? What would it look like to "drop your sword" and seek peace and blessing?

Take a Step

- Ask God to search your heart and make you aware of relationships where you're holding onto offense and finding it difficult to "do good" to them. Trust God to deal with your situation and look for ways to bless them.

Here's My Prayer

- Thank you, Jesus, for giving me the example of doing good and blessing those who hurt me. Thank You for being a righteous God who judges justly. Help me to be a person who resists the temptation to take matters into my own hands. I want to follow Your example of doing good and blessing others. Amen.