

God's Valuable Woman!

1 Samuel 25:32-35

- Did you ever wonder how a particular woman ended up married to a certain man?
- Abigail is described as “a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance”
- In economic terms, Nabal, the husband of Abigail, looked like a good catch
- I think it is noteworthy that the writer of this book introduces Nabal by first taking note of his material possessions

Verse 2

“Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. He had 3000 sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.”

Observations

- Only after telling of his possessions does the writer of the story tell us his name, Nabal
- Wealth was how Nabal chose to define his life
- His **wealth preceded his person!** He lived to defend his property
- Remember Jesus' warning to us in Luke 12:14
"..one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
- Nabal is described in verse 3 as a **harsh man, evil in his doings** and "of the house of Caleb"
- **Godliness is not "genetically transmitted"**

The Story

“Two Men Behaving Badly”

- David was on the run for his life with 400 men who were loyal to him. During this time he was **PUBLIC ENEMY #1** as far as Israel's king Saul was concerned

- Listen to how the bible describes the 400 men:
1 Samuel 22:2

“And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about 400 men with him.”

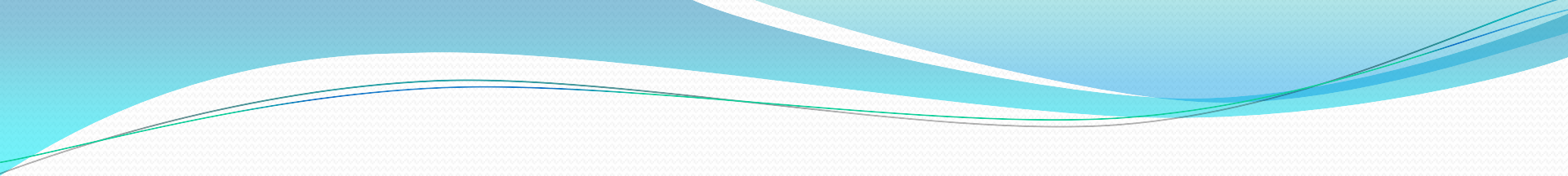
- Be careful how you label people. Some would call this group “losers”, but these men who aligned themselves with the Lord's anointed (David) became a kingdom of warriors and winners

- David and his men had run to a region that was near the land where Nabal pastured his enormous flock, and it was shearing time: (remove the sheep's wool and have a lambchop feast)
- David and his 400 outlaws had actually protected Nabal's wealth while camped near his property (verses 7-8; 16; 21)

Verse 16, "They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep."

- It was during this shearing time that David asked Nabal for some supplies for his men since he had already befriended them; Verses 4-8

When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, David sent 10 young men; and David said to the young men, “Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name, And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity:



“...Peace to you, peace to your house , and peace to all that you have! Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while 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 comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.”

Nabal Responds Ruthlessly!

“...Who is David, and who is the son of Jessie? There are many servants nowadays who break a way each one from his master. Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?”

- The word Nabal in English means “fool” and he sure had a name in keeping with his attitude
- Nabal wasn’t foolish because he had no business sense (he was a successful farmer)
- He wasn’t foolish because he wasted his money on riotous living (he appears on the other hand to be fiscally conservative)
- He wasn’t foolish because he didn’t pass his A.C.T. or S.A.T. (he doesn’t appear educationally challenged)

HE HAD BAD MORAL JUDGEMENT AND ETHICS!

- Nabal thought of “my bread,” “my water,” “my meat” rather than seeing himself as **AN ADMINISTRATOR OF GOD’S GRACE THROUGH HIM TO OTHERS!**

- When the men got back to David and told him of Nabal's refusal to give him anything David was enraged

Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

Does David's reaction to Nabal surprise you?

This same David had refused to retaliate against Saul

Have you ever over-reacted like that? Your anger prompts you to do something bad?

Nabal Had One Thing Going For Him Though He Was Clueless About It!

- The intelligent and beautiful Abigail
- It wasn't just beauty, but her intelligence enhanced her beauty
- Beauty can cause men to ignore the necessities of a relationship

*“As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout,
So is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.”*

Proverbs 11:22

- When Abigail is told of the trouble her husband had provoked, she shows her intelligence by 1) understanding the gravity of the situation 2) processing the issues, and 3) coming up with a plan to avoid a disaster
- Verse 18: “Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. And she said to her servants, “Go on before me; see, I am coming after you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal.”
- Verse 23 says that she rode a donkey, met David and his army on the road, coming to slaughter all of Nabal’s household, dismounted, and bowed before David

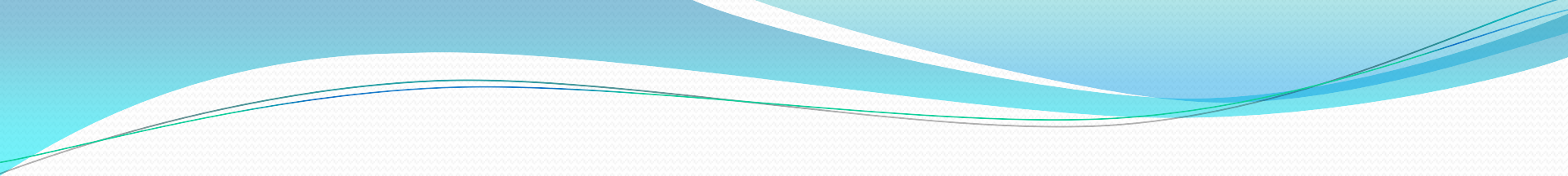
Abigail Intercedes for Nabal

Verses 23-31

- Throughout her appeal she focuses on David and the Lord, not on the conflict between David and Nabal
- She urges David to think about how his planned actions would reflect on God (as if to say, if God is truly in charge of life let Him have control, and He will revenge Nabal for you) Romans 12:17-19
- She places herself in Jesus' place in our sin-filled lives
Verse 24, ***“On me, my Lord, on me let this iniquity be!”***
Verse 29, She even appeals to him by recounting his battle with Goliath as a boy: ***“and the lives of your enemies he shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.”***

It Worked!

- David confesses that Abigail had been moved by God's own intervention to keep him from revenge on Nabal
- Abigail saved David from being known as an arrogant murderer who stopped at nothing to get what he wanted (Like Saul who murdered the priest at Nob when he went looking for David in 1 Samuel 22:11-19)

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- God did avenge David, because the next day, after he had sobered up from being drunk, Abigail told Nabal that his arrogance had brought him to the brink of disaster, he immediately became ill and died ten days later.
 - When David heard that Nabal was dead, he asked Abigail to marry him
 - She accepted!

Key Points

- Nabal shows us that responding to the truth of God is primary. “If I won’t admit I’m a sinner, I won’t admit I need a savior”
- David shows us that responding to the truth of God is the key to correction. By responding to God’s truths we avert “self-deception”
- Abigail show us that responding to God’s truths is the key to Christ-Like character

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38