

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

**Let's pray...**

**[1Sa 25:1-44 NKJV] 1 Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.**

The death of Samuel brings about an important transition in the history of the Israelites.

We have the end of the era of the judges that began shortly after the death of Joshua – and we now transition into the

era of the monarchy with the anointing of both Saul and David as kings.

Samuel, becomes a great example of someone who served the Lord faithfully – even from a very young age.

And even though he lived a life of servanthood unto the Lord, for the most part – it appears that he was unappreciated by the people of Israel.

You might remember that it was the people of Israel who went before Samuel and demanded a king while he still led them.

It wasn't until his death, that it appears that the people finally recognize the blessing that his life was indeed a blessing to all of Israel.

**2 Now [there was] a man in Maon whose business [was] in Carmel, and the man [was] very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 The name of the man [was] Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And [she was] a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man [was] harsh and evil in [his] doings. He [was of the house of] Caleb.**

As we were studying chapter 23 last Wednesday night – you might remember that at the end of the chapter – David was trapped on a mountain side.

Saul and his guys were on one side of the mountain and David and his men were on the opposite side of the mountain.

And just about the time Saul was going to get to where David was, he gets notice that the Philistines have invaded the land – he stops his pursuit of David and as a result – David was able to continue to evade being captured by Saul. The location of this mountain was in the wilderness of Moan. So David and his men had spent some time there – that is important.

Then we are introduced to this wealthy man named Nabal – how wealthy was he? He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats –

The name Nabal means fool.

This must have been an acquired nickname due to his character. It does not mean that this was his given name. No parent is going to name their child fool.

We are also introduced to his wife – this fool is married to Abigail means “Joy of the Father”

Abigail was a woman of good understanding – the word that is used here refers to someone who is pleasant, agreeable, prudent and insightful.

By contrast, Nabal was harsh – meaning he was cruel and hard-hearted.

**4 When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, 5 David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. 6 "And thus you shall**

say to him who lives [in prosperity]: 'Peace [be] to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have! 7

'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.

Sheep shearing usually took place in the summer time – around June and July. And this was generally a time of celebration – your time shepherding the sheep is finally going to pay off as people would make their livelihood off of the wool that they would sell.

Now, David hears that Nabal is shearing his sheep –

And he sends his men to remind Nabal that he has been blessed – but some of the reason for the blessing that he is

about to receive can be attributed to David and his men protecting the shepherds as they were in the area when they were fleeing Saul.

They protected Nabal's sheep/shepherds from other groups that would try to steal their sheep.

**8 '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.'**

It is important to note that David is not trying to extort Nabal.

This practice was customary during those days – If one was protected, one would have to pay accordingly.

David is simply requesting some compensation as a sign of appreciation for what David and his men had already done.

Notice that David did not demand any specific payment from Nabal or set a price – he simply left it up to Nabal's generosity.

So let's see how Nabal responds,

**" 9 So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited. 10 Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who [is] David, and who [is] the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master.**



Nabal first response is by first pretending not know who David or his family was – implying that David was no person of importance.

But everyone in Israel knew who David was because he was the one that brought down Goliath.

Nabal also accuses David of being a rebellious servant – implying that David was in rebellion against Saul.

What Nabal is telling the messengers is -

**“Who do you think you are??? Your leader, David, is nothing more than a fugitive from Saul”**

**11 "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?" 12 So**

**David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words.**

In verse 11, look at how many times Nabal uses the word I or my – seven times.

**Nabal showed what an ungenerous man he was. He looked at everything as his, instead of the LORD's.**

Church, True and Biblical generosity doesn't think, "This is mine and I will share it with you." It thinks, "All that I have belongs to the LORD so you can have some of it also."

**13 Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.**

I want you to notice what a difference a chapter makes –

Because last week, David had the opportunity to kill King Saul yet, he showed incredible wisdom and restraint in not doing so.

Even though Saul had repeatedly tried to kill him.

Yet, here in chapter 25, he is ready to cut off the head of this Nabal because he has insulted him by not giving provisions for his men.

**14 Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them. 15**

**"But the men [were] very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. 16 "They**

were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep. 17 "Now therefore, **know and consider what you will do**, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he [is such] a scoundrel that [one] cannot speak to him."

One of the servants goes up to Abigail and tells her what Nabal has done.

The word that is used for revile – it actually means to scream and to respond with arrogant disrespect. That is what the servant is telling Abigail how her husband responded to David's men. He was acting like a fool.

Not only did he tell Abigail what her husband did – he also tells her that David and his men **should** have been

compensated for the work that they had done protecting them.

However, most importantly, the servant tells Abigail to act – because he knows what is about to happen. He knows that David is coming!!!

**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 two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded [them] on donkeys.**

Abigail – quickly, makes the decision to intercede on behalf of her foolish husband.

This is a nice gift to bring, but certainly not huge or anything that Nabal couldn't afford. The guy had 3,000 sheep.

The fact that Abigail was able to gather so much food so quickly shows how wealthy Nabal was. If this much food was on hand, it makes Nabal's ungenerous reply to David all the worse.

Certainly he could afford to give David and his men five sheep.

**19 And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.**

Abigail goes behind her husband's back here not be sneaky or treacherous – but to simply protect him from his own stupidity.

**20 So it was, [as] she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.**

So Abigail and David finally meet.

But before they meet, David – in his anger, had already made a vow showing that he was a fool just like Nabal.

**21 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. 22 "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."**

David has gone too far.

Turn with me to the book of James.

**[Jas 1:19-20 NKJV] 19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; 20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**

You see, David was not planning to take vengeance on Nabal – he was planning to massacre Nabal and all the males in his household –

The servants that warned Abigail – this is exactly what he was afraid of – he knew David was going to take it out on everyone because that is the way the world responds.

However, God called David and has called us to go further than what the world expects.



**23 Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. 24 So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, [on] me [let] this iniquity [be]! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.**

Abigail wants to pay for the sin of Nabal.

She wants David to consider her to be the sinner and let her pay for the crime.

Even though she had nothing to do with what Nabal had told the messengers of David.

Turn with me to Philemon

Here we are going to see Paul do something similar.

**[Phm 1:17-19 NKJV] 17 If then you count me as a partner, receive him as [you would] me. 18 But if he has wronged you or owes anything, put that on my account. 19 I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay--not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides.**

**Church, Ultimately, this is what Jesus did for us. Just as Abigail is going to make peace with David by paying for Nabal's sins, Jesus made peace with God for us by paying for our sins.**

**This is why He died on the cross. We can come to have a relationship with God not by our own efforts, but when we come to trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross.**

**25 "Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name [is], so [is] he: Nabal [is] his name, and folly [is] with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. 26 "Now therefore, my lord, [as] the LORD lives and [as] your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. 27 "And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.**

Abigail presents her case to David –

She acknowledges that her husband is indeed a fool – **once again**, she is not betraying her husband as she tells David this, she is simply being candid as she tries to save his from being killed.

In verse 26, she also tells David that the LORD is the one who has stopped him –

And she also proclaims her allegiance to him at the end of verse 26 – when she says let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal.

**Let Saul and his men be like my husband – fools.**

**28 "Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days.**

Even though Abigail knows that David is currently filled with anger and is agitated – look at how she speaks of David.

And the reason she is saying this is because she truly believes that God has big plans for David.

**29 "Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, [as from] the pocket of a sling.**

Abigail affirms God's protection over him.

**30 "And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel,**

**31 "that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart**

**to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."**

Abigail is telling David here – don't do anything here that you are going to later regret when you come to power.

**32 Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed [is] the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 "And blessed [is] your advice and blessed [are] you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.**

God gives thanks to the Lord for sending Abigail.

He blesses Abigail for her advice, stopping him from blood and vengeance.

**34 "For indeed, [as] the LORD God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!"**

And David also acknowledges God's intervention to stop him from murder.

**35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."**

It is important to remember that Abigail did not come to David empty-handed. One reason her appeal was effective was because she paid David what was owed to him. When

David received it from Abigail he acknowledged that Nabal had paid the bill and there was nothing outstanding.

**36 Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there 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; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light. 37 So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became [like] a stone.**

Nabal lived up to his name; he was a fool. His life was in imminent danger – his wife knew it, all his servants knew it, but he didn't know it. He eats and gets drunk as if all were fine, and didn't have a care in the world.



Abigail's actions save Nabal from the wrath of David. They save David from making a big mistake that he would later regret.

But they could not save Nabal from God's judgment – and when the time was right, God took care of Nabal.

**38 Then it happened, [after] about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died. 39 So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed [be] the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head." And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.**

David knew the death of Nabal was God's judgment, which the LORD showed when David decided to let the LORD avenge him instead of avenging himself.

**40 When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife." 41 Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."**

Here we see Abigail's humility – here she is going to marry the future king of Israel and she doesn't allow that to go to her head. She still sees herself as a servant to the servants of David.

**42 So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife. 43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives. 44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who [was] from Gallim.**

It appears that Saul trying to get back at David - takes away Michal and gives her to someone else.

So Abigail becomes his wife and Ahinoam becomes his wife and we will see him take on a few more wives still –

Just remember that just because God allows it – it doesn't mean that he condones it.

Ahinoam will give David his oldest son – Amnon. And Amnon will go on to rape his sister and ultimately destroy David's family.

Michal will become David's wife again – but she will never be able to give him a child and she will resent David.

Every polygamous relationship in scripture – ends up in a total disaster.

**Let's pray...**



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