

*1 Then Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.*

Samuel Judge & 1<sup>st</sup> prophet--Greatest influencer for God & covenant w/ Israel since Moses & Joshua. Estranged from Saul for as least 7 years & Saul not likely be at burial nor was David for fear of Saul's spies.

Saints like Samuel bring a sense of God's presence & feeling of peace & security. Always sad when man of God so influential in work of God die.

Chuck but *'in the year king Uzziah died I saw the Lord' Is 6:1 vicarious faith-experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person.*

*2 Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel (1mile); and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel 3 (now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in his dealings, and he was a Calebite), 4 that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. 5 So David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name; 6 and thus you shall say, 'Have a long life, peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. 7 'And now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, nor have they missed anything all the days they were in Carmel. 8 'Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"*

Rich man not a good man *Pr 22:1 A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, Favor is better than silver and gold.* **Nabal** means fool—why? Mom named after his father & he lived up to his name. *Pr 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.* **Abigail 'my father's joy'** she was beautiful & intelligent-question is how did she get stuck w/ this guy? **Rich, wooed her Dr Jeykel Mr**

**Hyde**—Culture--arranged marriages at early age w/ parents or match maker.

What a person is as a little kid is not always what they grow up to be. She's a winner, he's a loser. At that point need great trust in Lord for future. **Go into marriage w/ eyes wide open & once married keep half shut.** Nabal a **Calebite** --family of faith but not always transferable. Nabal head of house, Abigail the heart.

David saved Nabals men and flocks from marauding bands of rustlers who kill and rob. Common practice to reward the protectors. David is very respectful & honorable in his words to Nabal but gets rebuked in return.

**9 When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David's name; then they waited. 10 But Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master. 11 "Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?" 12 So David's young men retraced their way and went back; and they came and told him according to all these words.**

Pagans knew who David was, how much more this Calebite, who is of David's tribe, Judah. Word had gone out, even from king Saul that God had chosen David as king. Nabal not only denied request but insulting David as an unknown & his father's house unrecognizable then calls him a runaway slave & men w/ him of no account. David is **a man after God's own heart** but not perfect when it comes to insults. A Godly attitude toward King Saul but not when a good deed is snubbed, ridiculed & insulted. Devil knows the things that will push our buttons to react in flesh. David wants to retaliate, wants revenge. **If watching a movie I want him to get revenge-Denzel 'The Equalizer'**

*13 And David said to his men, "Each of you gird on his sword." So each man girded on his sword. And David also girded on his sword, and about four hundred men went up behind David while two hundred stayed with the baggage. 14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, and he scorned them. 15 "Yet the men were very good to us, and we were not insulted, nor did we miss anything as long as we went about with them, while we were in the fields. 16 "They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep. 17 "Now therefore, know and consider what you should do, for evil is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that no one can speak to him."*

David out of anger is willing to wipe out all that belongs to Nabal. A servant informs Abigail of what happened & how David & his men treated them w/ respect & guarded Nabal's flacks w/o taking advantage. A contrast to their master '*worthless*' who won't listen to reason.

***Pr 18:2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind. Pr 15:2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.***

*18 Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread and two jugs of wine and five sheep already prepared and five measures of roasted grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 19 And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. 20 And it came about as she was riding on her donkey and coming down by the hidden part of the mountain, that behold, David and his men were coming down toward her; so she met them. 21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have guarded all that this man has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has returned me evil for good. 22 "May God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, if by morning I leave as much as one male of any who belong to him."*

Abigail is woman of faith & acts to save her household & her husband. She acts w/ wisdom but doesn't tell Nabal. There is a time when a godly wife bypasses an ungodly husband to do what is right as God would have her it.

***The anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Vengeance is mine I will repay says the Lord.*** Aftermath of retaliating in anger is innocent people get hurt--like Abigail & the servants. Plus retaliation never closes the wound and guilt remains for the rest of your life. ***Rom 12:19 Never take your own***

revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

1800's Joseph Scriven **What** a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

**Have** we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer. **Are** we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer; Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer; In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

*23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face before David, and bowed herself to the ground. 24 And she fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant. 25 "Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, 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 restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies, and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal. 27 "And now let this gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord. 28 "Please forgive the transgression of your maidservant; for the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you all your days. 29 "And should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling. 30 "And it shall come about when the LORD shall do for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and shall appoint you ruler over Israel, 31 that this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself. When the LORD shall deal well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."*

*A prudent wife is from the Lord Pr 19:14 yet unappreciated 'An excellent wife who can find....she looks well to the ways of her household' in Abigail's case she saved it from a foolish husband. 'a gift in secret subdues anger Pr 21:14*

25 She refers to Nabals reputation as the argument why not to retaliate.

26 She appeals to God's sovereignty & grace in restraining David, exhorts him to see God's plan for him as King & not to get caught in the snare of retaliation.. Revenge is short lived w/o satisfaction & soon turns to remorse.

31 She points to future David on throne God will give him, so now make good decisions that you will not regret later but leave in hands of Lord.

*32 Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, 33 and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed, and from avenging myself by my own hand. 34 "Nevertheless, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light as much as one male." 35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and he said to her, "Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request."*

David recognizes Abigail as God's voice to him—a divine appointment—that by her wisdom keeping him from taking things into his own hands, avenging the insult by murdering an entire family but in retrospect leaving it to God

*36 Then 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 did not tell him anything at all until the morning light. 37 But it came about in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, that his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him so that he became as a stone. 38 And about ten days later, it happened that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died*

Drinkers like Nabal are so occupied w/ themselves they miss what's around them, especially danger. Nabal unaware that if Abi hadn't intervened & given provision he'd be dead. *MH 'Sinners are often most secure when most in danger'* Haman w/ his 90' gallows for Mordecai hanged that night. Super *Yacht Baysian 'and they all lived happily ever after' yacht 184' 237' Sicily*

Nabal true to his namesake a drunken fool *Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler those who are intoxicated by it are not wise' Pr 20:1*

Abi uses prudence, didn't tell Nabal what she did. Abusive husbands don't listen to reason & abused wives know how not to be abused *'don't throw your pearls before swine less they turn and trample you under foot and turn and tear you to pieces. Matt 7:6'* She used wisdom *'wisdom is to high for a fool'*

Nabal goes from wine filled merry heart to stone cold disposition when told what Abi did, *'Laughter of fools is like crackling of fire, it soon dies out only ashes left' Eccl 7:6* She violated his will to save the household. *Rather die than crossed Pride goes before destruction a haughty spirit before a fall Pr 16:18*

Abi faithful reproof *'faithful are the wounds of a friend'* but not to unreasonable fool *'a man who hardens his heart after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy'* Hardened to death

*39 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 back His servant from evil. The LORD has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife. 40 When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, "David has sent us to you, to take you as his wife." 41 And she arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants." 42 Then Abigail quickly arose, and rode on a donkey, with her five maidens who attended her; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife. 43 David had also taken Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both became his wives. 44 Now Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.*

David's trust in the Lord is built up & he kept from revenge. Let God deal w/ Nabal in His own way. God will be our defense if we let Him or we become our own defense and God will let us.

Abi willing to marry David of man on the run w/ trials & difficulties. He gave into culture & customs of the day--many wives & concubines. God's plan and ideal *Mk 10:6-9 "But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. 7 "FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, 8 AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."*

2Sam3:2-5 six wives plus Michal & Bathsheba which makes 8 & concubines.