

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 27TH-28TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

## A HARSH MAN (1 SAMUEL 25:1-13) A MOMENT TO PAUSE FOR A GREAT LEADER

Before the author moves on to another story about David's life on the run, he pauses to tell us that Samuel the prophet has died and "all Israel assembled to mourn for him." More than likely, both David and Saul were there.

- Sam's death marked the end of the era of the judges and the birth of the monarchy.

### DAVID'S NEXT MOVE

After the funeral, David "went down to the Wilderness of Paran" in southeast Israel. In this area was a man named Nabal (stupid), who was "harsh and evil," and his wife Abigail, who was "intelligent and beautiful."

- Nabal was a rich man getting his sheep sheared at a festival in Carmel.

### PROTECTION OR JUST GOOD NEIGHBORING?

David sent 10 men to approach Nabal to tell him that his men never mistreated Nabal's while they were in Carmel. David was either officially protecting Nabal or just being a good neighbor.

- Because of his consideration, David asked for an invitation to Nabal's feast and any food he could spare for his men.

### THE WRONG RESPONSE

Nabal responded, "Who is David?" but not because he didn't know. This was blatant disrespect and possibly the breaking of a deal the two men had for protection.

- In his **selfishness**, Nabal **placed money, comfort, and convenience over respect, sacrifice, and helping other people.**

### DAVID RESPONDS INCORRECTLY AS WELL

After his men "retraced their steps," David didn't respond in a godly manner to Nabal's. David grabbed 400 of his men, intent on revenge.

- We are not to return evil with evil** (1 Peter 3:9). **Though we may be right, we should not lower our standards and act evil when people mistreat us.**

## A WISE WOMAN (1 SAMUEL 25:14-31) WE BETTER COME UP WITH A PLAN

One of Nabal's servants found Abigail and told her about David and his men's great reputation and Nabal's prideful rejection.

- We are to have a good reputation in the community (1 Peter 2:12,15), and even though people may not always honor it, God will honor our integrity.**

### "HE IS SUCH A WORTHLESS FOOL..."

Obviously, the servant was mad at and afraid for Nabal. Abigail was also afraid and probably embarrassed, so she quickly put a plan together to fix it.

- Selfishness leads to foolish decisions, worthless thinking, and a burden on others to deal with the mess of our choices.**

### A LARGE GIFT AND MUCH RESPECT

Abigail put a large gift together but did not tell her husband because he would not have allowed it. As she approached, David had just mentioned that he intended to kill Nabal's men.

- Abigail knelt down to pay homage and even accepted responsibility for her husband's foolishness.

### "STUPIDITY IS ALL HE KNOWS"

OT names can describe the reaction of the parents to a birth. Even if "Nabal" alludes to an abusive past, he still had **the choice to grow in knowledge, truth, and righteousness.**

- Regardless of where we've come from, we have the opportunity to change if we will humble ourselves and seek truth.**

### REMEMBERING GOD LEADS TO TRUE SUCCESS

Abigail reminded David it was God who had given him success over the years, God was preventing bloodshed with Nabal, and God would ensure a lasting dynasty for David.

- If we're to have **true success**, we must **trust God with everything, strive to live by His commands, and repent when we fail.**

### HOW WE HANDLE "ENEMIES" MATTERS TO GOD

Abigail also reminds David that revenge would not honor God and will cause "remorse or a troubled conscience."

- If we stay in relationship with Jesus, love and pray for our "enemies," and handle conflict biblically, He will empower us to overcome adversity and keep a clear mind.**

## A DRAMATIC TRANSITION (1 SAMUEL 25:32-44) DAVID DEESCALATES

Abigail's calm and biblical approach to David's anger and Nabal's arrogance calmed David down and allowed him to acknowledge that God was working on his behalf.

- We must be slow to anger (James 1), but that's only possible when we rely on the Spirit and Spirit-filled people to help us.**

## "...AND HE BECAME LIKE A STONE"

When Abigail told Nabal all that had happened, "His heart died and he became a stone." This implies a heart attack or stroke and full paralysis before he died.

- V38-39 makes it clear that this was the Lord's doing: "The Lord brought Nabal's evil deeds back on his own head."

## OUR SIN WILL FIND US OUT (NUMBERS 32:23, LUKE 8:17)

We love to talk about grace, but we hate to talk about sin and the consequences of not repenting of sin.

- Unaddressed sin has both temporary and eternal consequences. If we will acknowledge our sin and repent, God will forgive us and help us move beyond it.**

## WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THE WIVES?

At the end of this chapter, we learn that David married Abigail and a woman named Ahinoam. Also, David's first wife was given to a man named Palti from Gallim.

- The Bible clearly states that polygamy is a sin (Genesis 2, Deuteronomy 17, 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), so why is it so prevalent in the OT?

## ALLOWED BUT NOT APPROVED

In David's time, it was almost impossible for a woman to provide for herself, and many unmarried women resorted to prostitution or slavery.

- Though it was not approved, and there is biblical evidence for its destructive nature, God possibly allowed this so women were not left destitute.

## ARE WE GENEROUS?

- There's nothing wrong with success, but we must remember where true success comes from. **If we know that we're simply stewards of God's possessions, talents, and skills, we're more likely to be generous and bless others.**
- Is it possible we haven't had true success because God knows we lack generosity?

## DO WE DEMONSTRATE SELF-CONTROL?

- When we are wronged or find ourselves in seasons of stress, **do we demonstrate the fruit of self-control?** Self-control is possible when we walk in step with the Spirit through prayer and the Word.
- Do we understand the destructive nature of not having self-control in our lives?**

## ARE WE HUMBLE AND REPENTANT?

- When we act selfish or vindictive and are confronted about it, **are we humble enough to admit our mistakes?**
- Even greater than that, **are we repentant every time we do something in opposition to God's commands?** We walk in grace, but **sin should still bother Christians!**

## ARE WE HUNGRY?

- Healthy things grow and evolve.** Do we have a desire to learn and grow in truth and holiness? Or, like Nabal (stupidity), **are we content with shallow things and living in willing ignorance?**
- Does the "milk" of life (1 Corinthians 3) really give us all we want?
- Regardless of what we have done or what has been done to us, we can become what God wants us to be and experience salvation, change, and fulfilling growth!**
- Do we have a desire for the deeper things of God? Not just to be saved but to **fully experience a relationship with Him?**