

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 28TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

THE FOOL (1 SAMUEL 25:1-13) SAMUEL DIED

Mentioned briefly here, the death of Samuel marked the end of the era of judges in Israel. He had ushered in the reign of kings and the wisdom of prophets, and his death caused all of Israel to mourn.

- **David lost his spiritual mentor and his biggest supporter.**

NABAL

Nabal was a rich man, a descendant of Caleb, and in the tribe of Judah. Abigail, his wife, was beautiful and smart. But Nabal was not a good man. "Nabal" was probably his nickname and literally meant "stupid."

- **Good ancestry, good family, and financial resources do not make people good.**

DAVID'S RESPONSIBILITY

David and his 600 men were keeping their distance from Saul. Separated from the king's provision, David found other ways to provide for his men. He did his best to live in peace with the surrounding people and protected their families, crops, and herds wherever he saw the need.

- **David was a good neighbor.**

DAVID'S HUMBLE REQUEST

David sent ten men to Nabal with a message of peace, humility, respect, and a simple reminder that he had protected Nabal's wealth. The typical response of any wealthy man would be to offer a generous gift, especially if they were in the same tribe.

- **David had power but pursued peace.**

NABAL'S RESPONSE

Nabal makes it clear that he knows who David is and is familiar with his situation. He just doesn't care. He chooses to hurl insults and tells them that David and his men are nobodies, on the run and without a home.

- **Nabal was counting his money, but he did not take time to count the cost of his actions.**

THE HEART OF NABAL

Why would Nabal be so selfish? The answer is in verse 11, where the words "I" and "my" are repeated. Nabal insulted David because he did not want to admit that he loved money more than his fellow man.

- **The heart of Nabal exists today. When we refuse to give but offer insults instead, we reveal our greed and idolatry.**

DAVID'S PERSPECTIVE

David had been on the run from Saul for years. He was burdened with providing for his men and possibly their families. He regularly used what God had provided to protect his fellow countrymen. Having endured threats from the king, now he would receive insults from a "fool."

- **Even good men have a breaking point.**

PUT ON YOUR SWORDS!

This was not God's response; it was David's. He was not prepared for Nabal's insults. In a moment of frustration, he loses his Spirit-led self-control, forgets his spiritual victory in the cave with Saul (ch 24), and even allows a growing pride to take control.

- **If we don't stay close to God, we become servants of our passions.**

THE WISE (1 SAMUEL 25:14-31)

ABIGAIL LISTENS

We first see Abigail's wisdom as she takes the time to listen carefully to one of their servants as he tells her of Nabal's folly.

- **This servant knew that their lives were on the line, and he went to Abigail because she was approachable and reliable. This probably wasn't the first time she was called on to fix her husband's mess.**

ABIGAIL HURRIED

She did not waste any time in acting to save her husband and family. It may seem that she sent plenty, but a quick accounting reveals that what she sent would not be enough for David's men. But it would show good intentions and respect of the one who sent it.

- **She did what she could in the time she had.**

DAVID'S VOW OVERHEARD

As she approaches David, she hears him vow to kill Nabal and every male in his family, ending his family name.

- **Again, she does not waste time and jumps off the donkey. She kneels down and gives a speech showing the full depth of her wisdom.**

ABIGAIL THE AMBASSADOR

Instead of hurling insults, Abigail fell on her face in respect. Nabal's sin had brought her here, but she is willing to accept responsibility for her absence. She offered what Nabal had refused: food and respect as she praised his connection with God. Recognizing David's righteous dynasty, she pleads for forgiveness.

WISDOM AND HUMILITY 101, 201, 301, & 401

Her entire process is a lesson for every believer seeking to help another aggrieved believer turn from their anger.

- **She humbled herself, confessed the guilt of her sin, offered restitution, pleaded for forgiveness, and reminded David of his own godliness.**

REMORSE AND CONVICTION

In her closing statement, Abigail points to David's future as king of Israel. Nabal had a life of folly, and everyone could see him for what he was—a fool. David would have a life of surrender as a man after God's own heart. For him to follow his anger into needless bloodshed would cause regret, conviction, and public shame.

THE RESPONSE (1 SAMUEL 25:32-44)

BLESSED

David praises God and Abigail for delivering him from his violent passion. David was relieved of his anger, accepted Abigail's gift, and sent her home in peace.

- **We may find that we need others to remind us of God's Word, His holiness, and His wrath. Following our word, our holiness, and our wrath will lead us to regret.**

JUDGED

Abigail returns to find Nabal, cheerful and drunk, in the middle of a party. The next morning, as she shares her story, Nabal has a stroke and dies ten days later.

- **Nabal was struck dead by God. His sin had been against God's anointed and against God personally. Judgment should be administered in God's timing, not ours.**

CELEBRATION

David celebrated Nabal's judgment as he praised God for sending Abigail to restrain him from doing evil. He did not celebrate because Nabal had fallen; he celebrated because he had not.

- **We must remember that we are capable of sin, and we need intervention from the Holy Spirit, and others that God might send.**

LIFE AND LOVE

Abigail had a life of spiritual disunity and marital strife. Somehow, in the middle of her circumstances, she had kept her virtue, holiness, and faith. Her wisdom and godly treatment of David would be rewarded with a new life with David as his wife.

- **This is not a prooftext for staying in an abusive relationship. It is about hope.**

POSTSCRIPT

Marrying Abigail would provide David with the wealth of Nabal's estate. We are also told he married Ahinoam and that Saul had given his first wife, Michal, to another man.

- **Although "normal" for the time, polygamy is never endorsed in God's word, and it would lead to great harm to David and his household.**

SELFISHNESS

- We all have wants and needs.
- **Being able to discern the difference is essential to living a grateful life.**
- **As we live and have times of need, we should be able to humbly ask for help. As most of us live, we should recognize where our abundance comes from and be willing to help others with their needs.**

HEARTS

- We all need discernment.
- **The condition of our heart will determine our willingness to listen and conform to the wisdom that comes our way.**
- **Even when we lean into our sinful desires, a surrendered heart can hear wisdom and return to faithfulness.**

RESULTS

- We will make decisions that affect the rest of our lives.
- **Most of the time, our decisions are influenced by others.**
- **What are the results we are looking for? Will we stop and listen to God's Word, His Holy Spirit, and the disciples he sends to us? Will we end up with regrets or godly results?**