

28. In her preparation of the food that had already been cooked or ready to be cooked (the dressed sheep), what attribute do you see in Abigail?
29. Why do you think Abigail didn't tell Nabal what she was doing? Do you think this was proper? Why?
(Read 1 Samuel 25:19)
30. With 401 men riding with a vengeance towards her, do you think Abigail was a brave woman? (Read 1 Samuel 25:20)
31. How did Abigail show respect to David?
(Read 1 Samuel 25:23-24)
32. From this passage, how do you know that Abigail feared and loved the Lord?. (1 Samuel 25:24-31)
33. How many times did she call David "lord"? How many times did she call herself David's "maidservant"?
34. Did she excuse her husband's behavior?
35. In verses 24 and 28, whom did Abigail ask David to forgive? Who else was innocent and took the sins of the guilty?
36. Looking at verse 29, do you think she had heard of David's military victories? Why?
37. Name the verse that tells that Abigail knew David had been anointed the next king.
38. According to verses 30 and 31, what was the best reason Abigail gave David for not killing Nabal?
39. Did David heed Abigail's advice? What does this say to you about David's regard for women? (Read 1 Samuel 25:32-35)

Second Baptist Church
Sunday School Lessons
Week 6 out of 18

THE TENDER WARRIOR, THE LIFE OF DAVID

1 Samuel 25

DAVID AND ABIGAIL

Anger is one of the most hurtful emotions that we wrestle with. We all have said or done things out of anger only to find later that we deeply regret our actions. And the funny thing about anger, you can't hide it from others. It's one thing to say self-control is the answer, and it's another thing to practice self-control. Earlier we saw David keep his cool and not take revenge out on Saul when the opportunity availed itself. Now this same man begins to imitate the actions of his enemy. Maybe the growling in David's stomach became a little more than he could take. I don't know, but all of us at some time or another have faced situations like David's and have become very angry. The Bible tells us not to become so angry that we sin (Ephesians 4:26). The lesson David learned is just as important for us to learn today.

First, we need some background information in order for this story to be clear in its entirety. In those days most people who worked in the fields were shepherds. Most of the time, they worked for some wealthy landowner. Guerrilla fighters like David and his army would protect these sheperds from attacks by the Philistines, and as it was the custom of the day, when sheep-shearing time came, these guerilla armies would be paid by the wealthy landowners from the profits that they made. It was kind of like our tipping a waiter in a restaurant. There was no written law, but it was common courtesy and a show of gratitude.

1. Who died? (Read 1 Samuel 25:1)
2. After Samuel's funeral, why do you think David left and went to Paran?
3. What else had taken place in this same wilderness?
(Read Numbers 13:26 and Numbers 14:29,33)
4. How rich was Nabal? From whom had Nabal descended?
(Read 1 Samuel 25:2-3)
5. From which tribe did Caleb belong? (Read Judges 1:18-20)

6. To which tribe did David belong? What relationship did David and Nabal share? (Read 1 Samuel 17:12)
 7. Describe Abigail, Nabal's wife. (Read 1 Samuel 25:3)
 8. What time of the year was it? How many men did David send to Nabal? (Read 1 Samuel 25:4-5)
 9. In what three areas did David's message pronounce "peace" or "shalom" upon? (Read 1 Samuel 25:6)
 10. As David did to Nabal, why should we, as Christians, practice good manners?
 11. What was David's message to Nabal? Did David set a price on his services? (Read 1 Samuel 25:7-8)
 12. Knowing that David had at least 601 mouths to feed, and he only sent 10 men to receive their "tip", do you think David was being greedy in his request? (We have no idea of how many women and children were with David and his men at this time-see verse 43.) (Read 1 Samuel 25:13)
- I. THE FOOLISH FARMER. Nabal had a noble heritage as the descendent of Caleb. He had inherited Caleb's estate for Maon and Carmel lay near Hebron which was given to Caleb (Joshua 15:54-55, 14:14) But Nabal was far from inheriting the virtues of Caleb. Even Nabal's name meant "fool".**
13. Do you think that Nabal honestly didn't know who David was? How did this show disrespect to David and his position in the kingdom of Israel? (Read 1 Samuel 25:9-11)
 14. What word emphasizes Nabal's selfishness? (Look at verse 11)
 15. How wicked was Nabal? (Read 1 Samuel 25:3)
 16. What did Nabal's servants think of him? (1 Samuel 25:17)

17. How did his wife describe him? (Read 1 Samuel 25:25)
 18. Was Nabal's foolishness intellectually or spiritually? Why? (Read Psalm 14:1)
 19. What do you think made Nabal into such a greedy, ungrateful man? Do you know someone like him?
- II. THE FURIOUS SOLDIER. No doubt, David was quite surprised when his men returned with Nabal's message. And he even had a right to be angry, but the response to his anger was wrong.**
20. How fast did David's men return to him? (Read 1 Samuel 25:12)
 21. How many men did David take with him to kill Nabal? Do you think he overreacted? Why? (Read 1 Samuel 25:13)
 22. While riding to Nabal's house, how was David justifying in his own mind his anger and the murder of Nabal? (Read 1 Samuel 25:21-22)
 23. Who else did David intend to kill? Were they to blame?
 24. Why is anger and revenge so destructive to our lives?
 25. What is the best way to handle revenge? (Read Deuteronomy 32:35)
- III. THE FAITHFUL WIFE Abigail was a peacemaker, not a troublemaker. Some may have said this was her chance to get rid of her evil husband, but she protected him instead.**
26. To whom did Nabal's servants go with the news of David's forthcoming attack? Why do you think they didn't tell Nabal? (1 Samuel 25:14-17)
 27. What was the first thing that Abigail did? What was the quality of the food? (Read 1 Samuel 25:18)

IV. THE LESSON OF ABIGAIL'S LIFE. With her mission accomplished, Abigail returns home to her husband – but not to his open arms. Nabal was too busy playing the fool.

40. What did Abigail tell Nabal about her encounter with David? Why? (Read 1 Samuel 25:36)
41. When she did tell him, what happened? How long did Nabal live after he had a stroke? (Read 1 Samuel 25:37-38)
42. How did David respond to Nabal's death? (Read 1 Samuel 25:39)
43. What happened to Abigail. What was she willing to do in order to be with David? (Read 1 Samuel 25:40-42)
44. Because he chose to let God have revenge, how was David blessed?
45. Because she chose to be a faithful wife, what did God provide for Abigail?
46. Because he chose to live without God, what did God do to Nabal?
47. Who are you most like: Nabal, David or Abigail. Why?

CONCLUSION: There are three things that you can do to help you deal with conflict and anger. 1- Whatever you do when conflicts arise, be wise. Don't handle things in the energy of the flesh. 2- Take each conflict as it comes and handle it separately. God doesn't give patience on credit. 3- Whenever you realize there's nothing you can do, wait. Patiently. Let God handle the situation for you.

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