

Class 3 Abigail – a type of Messiah!

1. Intro – Nabal the Fool: Cannot really appreciate the greatness of Abigail without first seeing the smallness of Nabal

Nabal was small minded, selfish, and greedy! 2 Samuel 25

- The Divine Appraisal: “The man was harsh [cruel, rough, stubborn] and evil in his doings.” (v.3)
- His own words: "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?" (v.11)
- His Servants: “He is such a scoundrel [worthless, wicked, ‘Son of Belial’] that one cannot speak to him.” (v.17)
- His wife: “Nabal [stupid, wicked, vile] is his name, and folly [wickedness, villany] is with him.” (v.25)

2. Vengeance: In contrast to David’s reaction to his ‘enemy’ Saul, David here goes in search of vengeance against Nabal.

Nabal and Saul in juxtaposition – **God sent Nabal into David’s life for this reason!**

He had to learn this lesson. Better with Nabal than with Saul! (Ch 24 Saul – Ch. 25 Nabal – Ch. 26 Saul)

The DANGER of avenging YOURSELF, and NOT waiting for God to act! See v. 26, 31, 33 (repeated words)

See Pro. 14:29; 16:32; Jam. 1:19, **20** – be **slow** to wrath!

Key: The wrath of man does NOT produce the righteousness of God!

3. Abigail! This sets the scene for Abigail’s wonderful intervention!

1Sam. 25:20 – the fact that they actually met in the wilderness was no coincidence!! God at work (v.32)

Abigail’s gift: She was acting on the precedent of Jacob. Cp. vs. 19 with Gen 32:16. Note also the use of ‘lord’, ‘servant’, ‘handmaid’ – colour them in!

Jacob to Esau Genesis 32-33	Abigail to David 1 Samuel 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Said “My Lord Esau” 8 times➤ Said “Thy Servant” 5 times➤ He bows before Esau 7 times➤ Asks for grace 4 times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Said “My Lord” 11 times➤ Said “Thy Handmaid” 7 times➤ She bowed 2 times➤ Asked for forgiveness 2 times

4. Abigail as a Type of the Messiah

1Sam. 25:24 – Abigail takes the sin upon herself. She makes no excuse. She doesn’t try to justify bad behaviour. She pleads for mercy and forgiveness. (A model for us!)

- ◆ On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be!
- ◆ Please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.
- ◆ And now this present [blessing] which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.
- ◆ Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."

Also vs. 41 – “washing feet” – she acts in **Messianic** fashion! (Jn 13) 1Tim. 5:10 – how do you Sisters relate to the Messiah Jesus? Do you feel you cannot ‘follow his steps’ because Jesus is a man?

5. Abigail's faith in God's promises.

1Sam. 25:28-31 – "BRAINSTORM" – What insights does Abigail have? she appeals to the promises, David's previous victories, etc!!! Note: We are NOT at 2 Sam 7 yet!

Note: This may be the longest recorded speech by a woman in the Bible!

Her Insights:

- ◆ The LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand
- ◆ For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house
- ◆ My lord fights the battles of the LORD
- ◆ and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.
- ◆ 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... [Contrast this to what Nabal said in verse 10]

6. The Abigail way

1Sam. 25:26 she appeals to scripture and David's sense of right. This is how we should deal with each other! (2Tim. 2:25 - in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves...)

- ◆ She makes no excuses.
- ◆ She doesn't try to justify bad behaviour.
- ◆ She pleads for mercy and forgiveness.
- ◆ She accepts responsibility for the 'trespass' against David!
- ◆ She gently shows David the error of his way.
- ◆ She appeals to Scripture and David's sense of right & wrong.
- ◆ She acknowledges that God is at work!

6. David's Response

1Sam. 25:32-35 – David acknowledges the work of God thru Abigail (she was an angel!)

- ◆ "Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!"
- ◆ David acknowledges the work of God through Abigail
 - ◆ She was an angel to him!
- ◆ David could have 'brushed her aside'!
- ◆ How do we react when confronted with the Truth??

7. A fitting end

1Samuel 25:36-38 – Nabal dies (Death of the 'old man')

1Samuel 25:39-42 – Abigail marries David (Marriage to the King)

Pro. 9:7-9; 17:10 – David and Nabal contrasted!!

We need to be able to take and give rebuke when necessary! Most of us are good at neither!

(We are too defensive when rebuked – We tend to be too harsh & judgmental when rebuking!)

7. Conclusion: We will all NEED an Abigail at some point. We will need to BE an Abigail at some point!