

# The Example of Abigail

*1 Samuel 25*



# The Foolishness of Nabal

- Known to be very rich, harsh, & evil, **vs. 2-3**
- Success can destroy the heart
  - ❖ **1 Timothy 6:9-10**, “...they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

# The Foolishness of Nabal

- Became blind to true riches, **vs. 5-12**
  - ❖ Harsh with David's servants and his own
- Filled with greed, **vs. 5:14-17**
  - ❖ He owed David for protection his flocks
  - ❖ He tried cheat David out of \$\$\$
- Wouldn't listen to others, **vs. 17**
  - ❖ His actions were truly foolish (stubbornness)
  - ❖ **Proverbs 12:5, "way of a fool is right in his own eyes"**
- A drunkard, **vs. 36**
  - ❖ Not uncommon to see stubbornness & anger in a drunk

# The Wrath of David

- He was powerful, but yet humble to Nabal, **vs. 8**
  - ❖ David referred to himself as a “son” before Nabal
  - ❖ David could have demanded more than he charged
- His wrath was kindled, **vs. 13, 21-23**
  - ❖ He pretended not even to know David
  - ❖ Referred to David as a “run away servant”
- Foolishness often stirs more wrath
  - ❖ **Proverbs 15:1**, “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”
  - ❖ **James 1:19**, “...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”

# The Wisdom of Abigail

- Abigail, quick to do good, **vs.18-20**
  - ❖ She restrained anger by unleashing good deeds
  - ❖ **James 3:17-18**, “...wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”
- Abigail goes to David with great humility, **vs. 23-25**
  - ❖ Pleaded to speak to him
  - ❖ Acknowledged her husband was scoundrel

# The Wisdom of Abigail

- Abigail had great faith in God, **vs. 26-31**
  - ❖ She knew vengeance was “easy way out”
  - ❖ She knew vengeance didn’t show faith in God
  - ❖ **Romans 12:19-21**, “...beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord... if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- Abigail’s wisdom changed David’s mind, **vs. 34-35**

# God's Care & Reward for Us

## ■ God has great blessings for those who wait

❖ **Psalm 27:14**, “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

❖ **Psalm 37:7-9**, “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.”

# Waiting, Not An Easy Task!!!

- **Waiting shows faith in God**
  - ❖ Nabal met a quick death by God, **vs. 37**
  - ❖ Abigail's faith impressed David, **vs. 39-42**
  - ❖ David resisted taking vengeance on Nabal
  - ❖ David later showed resistance with Saul
  - ❖ David eventually became King

# Are You Waiting on the Lord?

- We need more Godly women (wives & mothers) like Abigail!
- We need more Godly men (husbands and fathers) like Abigail!
- We need more Abigail's who will use their influence to put away WRATH!
  - ❖ **Romans 14:19**, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."