

Shelton Park Church of God

Pastors Corner

From the Pastor's Desk...

אַבִּיגַיִל ~ Abigail 1 Samuel 25

The story & the name of Abigail in 1 Samuel 25 is one of the great stories in the Bible of the wisdom of a Lady that stopped an impending doom upon her husband and his servants through her humility & meekness.

Some have often criticized meekness by saying, "meekness is weakness." Jesus said in Matthew 5:5, ***"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."*** In Numbers 12:3, the Bible states that ***"Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."*** And we can truly say that Moses was not weak, for he led the children of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years.

Abigail was the wife of a very wealthy man in Carmel by the name of Nabal. Nabal is described later on in this narrative by his wife as, ***"for as his name is, so is he."*** The name Nabal, comes from the Hebrew word, נבל which means, "Fool." And that it is exactly how he acted.

During a certain season, while David was fleeing from the hand of Saul, David and his men had protected the servants and sheep of Nabal. They neither took any of the lambs for their provisions or necessities and they never harmed the servants, but they were a ***"wall unto them night and day, all the while they were keeping the sheep."***

In the process of time, when David had just escaped from Saul at En-Gedi, and he and his men were in need of provision, they looked to Nabal to return the favor. As David's men approached Nabal and asked for the provisions, Nabal more or less scoffed at them and replied, ***"Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? Shall I take my bread, and my water, and my flesh...and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?"***

Of course, this infuriated David and he sought to take his revenge. He had armed his men and prepared to come and not only kill Nabal, but all of his men servants. The men turned to Nabal's wife, Abigail.

Abigail in her meekness and humility intervened. She realized that her husband had made a horrible mistake. So in turn she puts together a large sum of provisions and servants and headed out to meet with David. When she arrived, she fell at his feet, knowing that she was risking her life to save her foolish husband's life. She called out in meekness and said, "Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be..." David received the provision from her and forgave the trespass.

Abigail's character displayed a quality that can only come from the Lord. Her name also displays this quality. Abigail in Hebrew literally means, ***"My Father is Joy."*** And according to some scholars it also comes from the root that means, ***"My Father redeems."*** Her intervention in meekness displayed how that our Heavenly Father can bring joy in a joyless situation, and redeem us from an impending doom if we maintain the right spirit. Being meek and humble are qualities from the Lord.

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