

The Beast, (Nabal) The Beauty, (Abigail) and the Warrior! (David)

Nabal → was a big man, rude, brutal, unmanageable when drunk; he was harsh, stubborn, and a very wealthy sheep rancher. He was jealous of his wife, not very bright, and selfish. He had no place in his miserable life for God.

Abigail — was a beautiful woman. She had great wisdom, manners, a wonderful mind, and great skill to live with such a thoughtless and difficult husband. She fulfilled her vows of marriage faithfully despite the disposition and bad behavior of her husband. She honored and obeyed the Lord in every situation of her life. She was awesome!

David was a handsome man (I Samuel 16:12) who attempted to serve the Lord throughout his life. David was an exceptional musician, faithful son, wise shepherd, and fierce defender of the Lord God Almighty and his people. His psalms are deep, real, and a great help in all situations of life. He would soon become King of Israel.

Their amazing story is shared with us in I Samuel 25:2-42.

- Saul and his men are chasing David to kill him → v.1-3
- David's men urge him to surprise Saul and kill him while he is in the cave → v.4
- David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut off a piece of Saul's robe → v.5

David knew that God had made Saul King and he would not put **personal** feelings above the Lord's command. (v.6 & v.9-12)

In whatever leadership role(s) you find yourself today, put the Lord's will and way **above** your own.

The Lord's anointed ones are not to be **violated** (ch.26:9, 11, 16, 23, II Samuel 1:14, 16, 19:21)

God has His ways which are higher than our ways;
we are to follow His ways in **every** circumstance!
My place is in submission to **God**!

Another fascinating story involving these three is found in I Samuel 25:4-19

- David needed food for his men and he sent some of his men to Carmel to ask Nabal for provisions. They were rejected by a sneering Nabal who claimed no knowledge of David and then sent them on their way.
- Abigail was told of the situation and she quickly gathered enough food for David and his men (v.18-19). She sent her men on ahead of her and did not tell her husband of these developments.
- Abigail meets David on the road. David is not a happy camper. (Men can be so unpredictable) Listen to her incredible words and wonderful attitude toward David—(v.23-28)
- But she is not done as we read in verses 29-31. Wow, this woman could get right to it and she was very persuasive!

Abigail is totally committed to God!

But here are the marvelous results of her words, attitude, and commitment to God's ways.

- Verse 10 reveals the whole heart of David. This woman called him to accountability before God. . . .and David responded magificantly!

Not only did he acknowledge her wisdom, he acknowledged her accuracy of both God's character and the goal for his character!

At this moment, they both submitted their lives and behavior to God. (v.34-35)

Again, after arriving back home, she delayed informing her very drunk husband until the next day. Wise choice! Upon hearing the details from the day before, Nabal had stroke and 10 days later, he died.

Would you like a happy ending to this amazing story? Listen to verse 39-42

"When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, 'Praise the Lord, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin.' Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife. When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, 'David has sent us to take you back to marry him.' She bowed low to the ground and responded, 'I, your servant, would be happy to marry David.'"

God has a deep sense of justice!

Are you ready to commit your life to Him today?