

David & Abigail – Jan. 26, 2022

Story stays w/ our theme for 2022: 4 you God.

Rise up and don't let the people around you hold you back.

Some live w/ negative, mean, foolish people - Opposites attract!

1 Samuel 25 – Lots of lessons for us.

1. David is rejected & insulted

- a. Don't eat what others dish out. Rise higher.
- b. Don't avenge rudeness. Let things go.
Romans 12:19 – “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- c. Quit keeping score. God is the Scorekeeper.
 - i. David protected the shepherds b/c right thing to do.
Prov. 24:12 – “For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.”
 - ii. Do good to others b/c God is good.
 - Focus on serving God, living for Him. He's our reward.
Matt. 10:42 – “if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.”
- d. One mistake made in anger can cost you a LOT.
 - i. David isn't perfect, but each decision matters.
 - ii. **Psalm 4:4** – “Be angry, yet do not sin; on your bed, search your heart and be still.” It's them, not you.
 - iii. David's been fighting battles, but this one isn't his to fight.
Trust God to fight your battles; avenge you; use it for good.

2. Abigail is heaven sent.

- a. Abigail is intelligent, wise, & good understanding.
 - i. She is everything Nabal is not (rude, impolite, hot-headed).
- b. Her kindness causes David to see the light. **We shine ... they see!**
 - i. **We can be buffers ... intermediaries ... difference makers**

1. **Intermediary** is “go between.” Moses was: God & people. Jesus is our intermediary.
 2. Be a **Lighthouse** ... a Warning. Guide. Help others avoid the rocky places. **Rise Up!**
- ii. **We can Remind people what they have forgotten.**
1. Petty insults don’t matter; what others say doesn’t matter. God’s opinion counts.
 2. Nabal’s remarks make Nabal look bad, not David. Only David’s response can make him look bad.
 3. She reminds David of his destiny. He was born for more.
 4. She keeps David from making a mistake he would regret.
- iii. *“Living 4 U, God”* - living on a higher plane. Rise above.
Help people see their greatness. Get out of the gutter.
▶ Do what you can, leave the rest to God. Plant a seed.

3. Lessons for us all:

- a. **When you see injustice, unfairness ... Rise up and Shine!**
 - i. Be a friend to the lonely. Stand up for the mistreated.
 - ii. Help the helpless. Be kind to the widow . . .
 - iii. Be a good Samaritan. Get involved. **Do it 4 you, God.**
- b. **Don’t pretend or deny truth. Act ... rise up and shine.**
 - i. Abigail doesn’t deny that Nabal was ill-mannered or rude, but she sought grace on his behalf.
 - ii. She worked quickly. Wisdom knows what to do & does it.
- c. **In an unbalanced world** – good/bad; kind/mean... **be the balance.**
 - i. Nabal’s rude, assumes the worst. Abigail’s kind, sees potential.
 - ii. Who do you choose to be? Put your weight on the scale.
- d. **Rise up to Move up**
 - i. End/story - we must keep doing our best; pass test & advance.
 - ii. Abigail goes from married to a fool to a king.
 - iii. Our light shines brightest in the darkness. . . **Rise up and Shine!**

“For you in 2022.” Commit to Rising Up. Standing up. Speaking up.

Be an Abigail. **4 U in 22.** Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated.

Song of the week: “Shine” – by Mandisa.

