

ABIGAIL: David's Counselor

study #5




THE LIFE OF DAVID: Cultivating a Heart for God

“By an oration in which she skillfully blended diplomacy with ardent supplication, Abigail cooled the tempers of David and his men. She accepted responsibility for her husband's foolishness and craved David's forgiveness. But she also suggested that it would be a great pity if David, when he came to power, had to look back on this particular day with regret....Abigail shines like a bright star in David's life.”

“David! David! What is wrong with you? Why, one of the most wonderful things we have learned about you recently is your patience with Saul. You learned to wait upon the Lord, you refused to lift your hand to touch the Lord's anointed, although he had been your enemy for so many years. But now look at you! your self-restraint has gone to pieces and a few insulting words from a fool of a man like Nabal has made you see red! David, what's the matter?”

Alan Redpath,
The Making of a Man of God

What larger section is chapter 25 part of? (In other words, what is going on in David's life at this point?)

 **Read 1 Samuel 25.**

What is the significance of verse 1? How do you think it impacted David?

What does “Nabal” mean?

What does “Abigail” mean?

What is the point of David's message to Nabal in verses 5 - 8?

Why does David respond the way he does in verse 13 and 21?
According to your study in Proverbs, what kind of man does Nabal appear to be?

Describe Abigail's actions. Were they wise?

What motivated her? What was her opinion of David and what could it have been based upon?

What is it about David's response that draws us to him?

What do you think happened to Nabal when he heard Abigail's story?

What is the purpose of this story? If it was preserved for our instruction (see 1 Corinthians 10:11) what was God trying to tell us by recording it?

Last - but not least - why do you think David asks Abigail to become his wife?

“Learn from this that the best of men need to be always on the watch lest, in some sudden temptation, they should be carried off their feet. You may think yourself to be strong; but let the wind blow from another quarter, and the wall may speedily fall.

Remember our Lord's words to His disciples: “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

C.H. Spurgeon



LIFE RESPONSE: What Does it Mean to Me?

- ◆ Think of a time when someone talked you out of doing something really stupid that you would have regretted. What was it?

- ◆ Have you ever been in the position of a peacemaker?

- ◆ What “role” do you think our culture values more, the *peacemaker* or the *avenger*?

- ◆ How do you tend to respond to an apparent insult?
 - a. I usually lash out in anger privately*
 - b. I usually lash out in anger directly at the person*
 - c. I usually “stuff” my feelings inside (only to have them crop up later)*
 - d. I usually go to the person and try to get the story straight*

- ◆ What is your best example of a time when you actually dealt with a difficult situation like this in a mature way. How did the other person respond? How did it turn out?

- ◆ **Read Romans 12:17-21.** What does it have to teach about this kind of situation?