

## **8-13-2025 – Journey with King David – Week 6 – Abigail & Nabel, Carmel**

David has been in the **Wilderness**. Now in a place called **Carmel**.

Lessons from the wilderness: **3 prior purposes:** (+1 more tonight)

**(1) Foundation/character building. Preparation.**

a. At the right time, **when we're ready, God will open the door.**

**(2) Draw** closer to God . . . He's the most important thing we need.

a. **People betray us . . . God is faithful.**

**(3) Learn to Wait on God.** Don't take matters into your own hands.

a. **How we get there matters.** David will be king, b/c God will promote him... not b/c David overthrows Saul. Accepted/King.

**This week – more preparation for David. He's not quite there. Refining.**

**1 Samuel, Chapter 25 - Nabal & Abigail – marriage shows opposites attract.**

She's everything he's not. She's sensible & beautiful; he's rude & mean.

He was mean-spirited & bad-tempered. "He was a Calebite."

- Has 1000 goats, 3000 sheep. Shearing sheep in Carmel.
- David sends 10 men w/ a message for Nabal: Nabal means "fool."

<sup>6</sup> "Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own! <sup>7</sup> I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them. <sup>8</sup> Ask your own men, and they will tell you this is true. So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David." <sup>9</sup> David's young men gave this message to Nabal in David's name, and they waited for a reply.

<sup>10</sup> "Who is this fellow David?" Nabal sneered to the young men. "Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters. <sup>11</sup> Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I've slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?"

<sup>12</sup> So David's young men returned and told him what Nabal had said. <sup>13</sup> "Get your swords!" was David's reply as he strapped on his own. Then 400 men started off with David, and 200 remained behind to guard their equipment.

David goes warrior mode! Why do we often respond in kind? Rude – rude. They snap ... we snap back.

God isn't interested in who snapped first, **interested in our reactions.**

- [James 1:19-20](#) – “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”

In anger, we do things we regret. **Never have peace this way.**

David – known as a “*Man after God's own heart*” . . . but quick to anger.

- David – like many people – has a short fuse.

[Prov. 15:1](#) – “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

David is **stirred up**. Easy to see - David still has more **maturing** to do.

- He's still young, in his 20's. Not ready to be king yet.

**We live in a world where it's easy to be insulted.** Quick to get angry.

- **But in politics**, need thick skin. Press/people, won't always be kind.
  - **Prov. 14:17** – “A quick-tempered man acts foolishly”
  - **W/o intervening**, David is about to be **foolish** – just like Nabal.
    - **Ecc. 7:9** – “Don't let your spirit rush to be angry, for **anger abides in the heart of fools.**”
- **Instead**, David needs to mature and learn this lesson:
- [Prov. 16:32](#) – “He who is slow to anger is better than a warrior, and he who controls his temper is greater than one who captures a city.”

David is about to act like Nabal – **fool**. Servant tells Abigail. “**Dear Abby . . .**”

<sup>14</sup> Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them. <sup>15</sup> These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us. <sup>16</sup> In fact, day & night they were like a wall of protection to us & the sheep. <sup>17</sup> You need to know this & figure out what to do for there is going to be trouble for our master & his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!”

<sup>18</sup> Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread, 2 wineskins full of wine, 5 sheep that had been slaughtered, nearly a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes. She packed them on donkeys <sup>19</sup> and said to her servants, “Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly.” But she didn't tell her husband Nabal what she was doing.

Abigail is going to **intercede**. . . for the servants, herself, Nabal & David.

Sometimes we just have to act. Do what we know is right.

- We can help heal the wounds others cause.
- We can step in, prevent 1 mistake from becoming 2.
- We can **intercede** for others – **intervene** on another's behalf.
- **1 Tim. 2:1** – “I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.”

<sup>20</sup> As she was riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw David and his men coming toward her. <sup>21</sup> David had just been saying, “A lot of good it did to help this fellow. We protected his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing he owned was lost or stolen. But he has repaid me evil for good. <sup>22</sup> May God strike me and kill me if even one man of his household is still alive tomorrow morning!”

#### **Abigail Intercedes for Nabal**

<sup>23</sup> When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. <sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said, “I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say. <sup>25</sup> I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.

<sup>26</sup> “Now, my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, since the Lord has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies and those who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is. <sup>27</sup> And here is a present that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men. <sup>28</sup> Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The Lord will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the Lord's battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life.

<sup>29</sup> “Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the Lord your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling! <sup>30</sup> When the Lord has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, <sup>31</sup> don't let this be a blemish on your record. Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the Lord has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!”

<sup>32</sup> David replied to Abigail, “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! <sup>33</sup> Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands. <sup>34</sup> For I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal's men would still be alive tomorrow morning.” <sup>35</sup> Then David accepted her present and told her, “Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband.”

Notice – the tables get turned on David.

- Previously, David confronted Saul & reminded him – you were anointed by God - did he anoint you for this? Chase a flea?
- Abigail does the same for David – reminds him he's on a higher mission.

Notice what she doesn't do: make excuses for Nabal. Calls it like it is. No coverup.

- This is another **lesson in maturity** for David & us – **rise above and leave vengeance in God's hands.**
  - **Nabal is cursed** ... don't take matters into our own hands.
  - God's promise to Abraham is a promise to us:
    - **Genesis 12:3** – “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you”
- **Another life lesson: Leave revenge in God's hands.** Don't have blood on your hands. Live this life with clean hands
  - **Deut. 32:35** – “I will take revenge; I will pay them back. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny will overtake them.”
- David has already learned not to harm the Lord's anointed... he has to learn to put other people in God's hands, too.
  - **It's not easy... hurts are part/life.** But God is in justice business. **God replays. We reap what we sow.**
    - **Deut. 30:3** – “the LORD, your God, will restore your fortunes and will have compassion on you”

Like David, we'll deal w/ rudeness. Treated unfair. Mean/deceiving. Hurt. God allows these things to happen, using them **to refine us**. Trust/process. God used a fool to make David wise. King Herod/ J & M to Bethlehem. God will use the non-righteous in your life to make u righteous.

**End of the story.** Abigail goes home, finds Nabal partying, very drunk.  
Next morning, she tells Nabal all. He has a stroke, dies 10 days later.

<sup>39</sup> 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.

<sup>40</sup> When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, “David has sent us to take you back to marry him.”

<sup>41</sup> She bowed low to the ground and responded, “I, your servant, would be happy to marry David. I would even be willing to become a slave, washing the feet of his servants!” <sup>42</sup> Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David’s messengers. And so she became his wife. <sup>43</sup> David also married Ahinoam from Jezreel, making both of them his wives. <sup>44</sup> Saul, meanwhile, had given his daughter Michal, David’s wife, to a man from Gallim named Palti son of Laish.

- **David isn’t perfect.** None of us are. But he seeks to please God.
- And **David allows bad experiences to make him better, not bitter.**
  - **Don’t propose** to a woman thru a messenger.
  - Don’t take multiple spouses, or cheat on your spouse.