

Hidden Figures – Week 4: Abigail – 5-29-24

1 Samuel 25 – story of Abigail – Nabal – and David.

Takes place in **Carmel**. Saul built a monument to himself there. He's nearby. Carmel is in the heart of the conflict between Saul & David. Judah hill country.

Nabal & Abigail. Beauty – Beast – & Becoming King. Opposites attract; She's everything he's not. She's intelligent & beautiful; he's mean, harsh, surly, churlish.

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

- Has 1000 goats, 3000 sheep. Shearing in Carmel.

v. 5-8 – "Greetings! We took care of your shepherds ... please share; festive"

v.10-11 - ¹⁰ Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. ¹¹ Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

¹² David's men turned around & went back." They tell David, he goes ballistic!

David is offended. Man after God's own heart . . . but quick to anger.

He is insulted. **Clash of expectations.**

"**Foreseeability expectations**" – expect/predict b/c we think they know us well ("I would never have expected to hear this from my best friend").

"**Reciprocity expectations**" - hoping favors/ kindness is returned in kind ("I always sent her a birthday gift... she forgot mine?").

"**Equity expectations,**" - our desire to be treated fairly and equally ("My dad always takes up for my sister, but never for me").

We live in a world where its easy to be insulted. Quick to anger.

Prov. 14:17 – "A quick-tempered man acts foolishly"

Ecc. 7:9 – "Don't let your spirit rush to be angry, for **anger abides in the heart of fools.**"

A **lesson** David needs to learn to be the King God called him to be: **temper.**

He's not yet ready . . . temperament. He's still "a man after God's own heart."

David gets 400 men, take swords, head to Nabal; David will act like Nabal – **fool.**

Servant tells Abigail. "**Dear Abby . . .** "

¹⁸ Abigail acted quickly. She took 200 loaves of bread, 2 skins of wine, 5 dressed sheep, 5 seahs (60 lbs) of roasted grain, 100 cakes of raisins and 200 cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. ¹⁹ Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

Sometimes you have to act; not discuss... do what is right.

²⁰ As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. ²¹ David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. ²² May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"

²³ When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. ²⁵ Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. ²⁶ And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. ²⁷ And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you.

²⁸ "Please forgive your servant's presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. ²⁹ Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. ³⁰ When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, ³¹ my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant."

³² David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. ³³ May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.

A verse for Abigail . . . and all those who have to deal w/ fools, angry people.

Prov. 15:1 – "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

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

She is wise – she reminds David: **God avenges us.** He'll take care of the injustice.

Rom. 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.”

Like David, we'll all experience times when we aren't treated fair, injustice.

God allows these things to happen, using them to mature us. Rely on Him.

God makes up for the inequalities & unfairness of life.

Deut. 30:3 – “the LORD, your God, will restore your fortunes and will have compassion on you” God is in the restoration business. He is justice.

Abigail reminds David – you have a destiny greater than this. Don't lose sight.

Too often, we get pulled into the fray; should rise above it.

Tell end of the story. Abigail goes home, tells Nabal. He dies. She marries.

Abigail is a foreshadow of Jesus.

Example 1: Abigail rode a donkey on the way to make atonement.

Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem.

Example 2: Abigail sought to bear Nabal's iniquity

Isaiah 53:11 – “My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.”

Example 3: Abigail provided an offering for Nabal's sin

Jesus was a sacrifice for our sin. **Eph. 5:2** – “walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.”

Example 4: Abigail was accepted as an intercessor

1 Tim. 2:5 – “For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus”

Example 5: Abigail established peace.

Col. 1:20 – “Through the Son, God reconciled all things to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, thereby making peace through the blood of his cross.”

Song of the week – Blessing Offer, Dolly Parton – “Somebody's Child”