

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 42: Chapter 25: Vengeful and Impulsive David, Meek and Understanding Abigail, and Churlish Nabal

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DEFINITIONS:

Vengeful:	Vindictive; retributive; filled with a desire for revenge; wanting to inflict harm or injury in return for a wrong.
Impulse:	An arousing of the mind and spirit to action. A sudden inclination usually initiated by emotions or feelings.
Meek:	Mild of temper; soft; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated; yielding; given to forbearance under injuries.
Churlish:	Rude; surly; austere; sullen; rough in temper; unfeeling; uncivil; obstinate.
Obstinate:	Stubborn; inflexibly adhering to an opinion or purpose; fixed firmly in resolution; not yielding to reason, arguments or other means.
Railer:	One who scoffs, insults, censures or reproaches with scornful language.

Vss. 1-3	<p>Nabal was wealthy and he was churlish and evil in his doings.</p> <p>Abigail was a woman of good understanding (first), and of a beautiful countenance (second).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You can't choose to be beautiful, but you can choose to be of good understanding:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Concerning your relation to God.○ Concerning other people's relation to God.○ Concerning what is right in every situation.
Vss. 4-9	David's faith, courage, and fighting ability are the reason that Nabal did not lose his property or his life to the invading Philistine army. Certainly Nabal was aware of that fact. Therefore, David sent men to collect some provisions for services rendered.
Vss. 10-11	Nabal pretended like he never heard of David. He was selfish and refused to give anything.
Vss. 12-13	When David's men return empty-handed, he impulsively decides to take vengeance. If he does this, it will be sinful (murder, theft).
Vss. 14-17	Abigail was told about the situation; how David and his men treated them right. We learn also that Nabal has a reputation for being a son of Belial (a child of the devil), unapproachable, and stubborn. He demonstrated this character when he railed on David's men and ran them off.
Vss. 18-19	Abigail immediately took positive action in hopes of protecting her husband and all those who are in danger of David's retribution. She's going to attempt to give David what he asked for and seek his forgiveness, but she doesn't tell her husband because she knows he'll try to stop her and they'll all end up dead.

LESSON: a wife with good understanding (of the things of God) will stand up for her husband and intercede between him and God, begging God to have mercy on him. She won't ask God to "Get him!" See Matthew 5:44 for Jesus' instructions in this matter. Ask Him for the grace to accomplish this.

Vss. 20-26 Abigail quickly rode out to meet with David, she fell at his feet, and asked him to lay her husband's iniquity upon her. That's true biblical love and grace. Paul had it too (Rom. 9:3).

She told David that God prevented him from avenging himself; something he would later regret if he didn't change his mind.

LESSON: God sometimes intervenes in our lives to protect us from our wrong actions. You may look back today and thank God for the sinful situations you know you avoided.

Vss. 27-28 She asked David to take the blessing she had brought and to "**forgive the trespass of thine handmaid.**" Forgive ME! She counted her husband's sin as her own. That's because the Bible says, "**They twain shall be one flesh**" (Gen. 2:24, Mt. 19:5).

Vss. 29-31 Abigail reminds David that God has anointed him to be king. Once he is king, he won't want to look back at this day in regret. If he avenges himself instead of letting God take care of it (Rom. 12:19, Deut. 32:43), he'll be guilty of a great sin.

LESSON: We ought to live each day before God, aiming to obey Him and do right so that when we reach a time in our life when God greatly blesses us, we don't have to look back in shame and regret for the times we got impatient or impulsive and committed a sinful act.

Vss. 32-35 David wasn't too proud to take advice from a woman (vs. 33) and he was grateful for it.

David received the provisions he needed while he was on his way to do wrong. Our sins don't change God's promises.

Vss. 36-42 Nabal was drunk. As a result, he was merry. Drinking makes you feel good, as do many other things, but God wants you to look beyond the initial good feelings and see the terrible payment and punishment that waits on the other end (addiction, poor health, disease, jail, etc.)

Abigail had the good sense not to make a drunkard angry. She didn't tell her husband about David until the morning. When he heard the news, he had a heart attack, went into a ten-day coma, and then God smote him. David didn't have to do it.
