DAVID, NABEL AND ABIGAIL

1 SAMUEL 25:1-44
David, Nabal and Abigail

Commentary

by

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Text:

1 Samuel 25:1-44,

1. Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon.
2. A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel.
3. His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.
4. While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.
5. So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name.
6. Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'
7. " 'Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing.
8. Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.' "
9. When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited.
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 and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word.
13. David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.
14. One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them.
15. Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing.
16. Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them.
17. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."
18. Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred 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.
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 desert 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: "My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.
25. May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent.
26. "Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal.
27. And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you.
28. Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live.
29. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master 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 done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, 31. my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master 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.
34. Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."
35. Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."
36. When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak.
37. Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone.
38. About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.
39. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head." Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife.
40. His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife."
41. She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master's servants."
42. Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David's messengers and became his wife.
43. David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both were his wives.
44. But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim. (NIV)

Introduction:

1. Here we observe an interesting juxtaposition of the previous chapter to this one.
A. In chapter 24 David took the high road and refused to take revenge when he was in a position to do so.

B. In chapter 25 the sleight his men received caused David to tell each of his men to “strap on your sword.”

1. The men of Nabal were going to die!

C. David’s honoring of the Lord’s anointed prevented him from killing Saul.

1. The honor of a woman also prevented him from killing Nabal.

Commentary:

Samuel’s Death

1 Samuel 25:1, Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon. (NIV)

1. After chapter 16 little mention is made of Samuel, the great prophet.

A. It appears the mention of Samuel’s death is rather insignificant in light of its occurrence in the context; however, later in Saul’s life (not much later), he again meets up with Samuel – only this time in a strange set of circumstances.

B. David was a man on the run, and a man who had few close associates that he could trust.

1. Ahimelech, the High Priest, was killed on account of David’s presence in Nob.
2. David was certain not to go to see Samuel again as a result of this event.

3. But now that Samuel is dead, David could not see him even if he wanted to.

4. Samuel’s death was a significant blow to David.

C. At the news of Samuel’s death, David headed to the Wilderness of Paran (the northern portions of the desert of Arabia).

David Inquired of Nabal

1 Samuel 25:2-13, A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings. While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. So he sent ten young men and said to them, 'Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours! ' 'Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.' ' When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited. 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. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have
slaughtered for my shearsers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?" David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies. (NIV)

I. David was in an area of the Israelite territory where a wealthy man named Nabal lived.

   A. David and his men would have been in the mountains of Judah.

   B. Nabal had his business in Carmel, “A city of Judah, in the uplands near Hebron, named with Maon and Ziph….It is represented by the modern el-Karmil, about ten (10) miles to the southeast of Hebron.” (ISBE, E-Sword)

II. At a festive time when most people became more generous than normal, David made requests of Nabal to extend his benevolent spirit.

   A. Nabal is not described well at all by the Holy Spirit, but his wife is described very favorably. (25:3)

      1. 1 Samuel 25:3, His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings. (NIV)

III. David and his men (including the family members of his men) had to live off the land, a terribly difficult proposition. (25:4-12)

   A. 1 Samuel 25:4-12, While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and
your household! And good health to all that is yours! "Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.' "When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited. 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. 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?" David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. (NIV)

B. Because David was helpful to those who actually served Nabal, he thought it perfectly reasonable that Nabal would return the kindness with a generous portion of food.

1. David’s request was spurned.

IV. David was known to be the Lord’s new anointed king at the passing of Saul. (1 Samuel 25:30; 25:8-12)

A. 1 Samuel 25:8-12, 30, Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.' "When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited. 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. 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?" David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel. (NIV)

B. David sent his men to Nabal, not simply in the name of David, which would have been no insignificant matter, in the name of the next king of Israel.

C. When Nabal spurned these men it was tantamount to rejection of the Lord’s anointed.

1. Surely, it would be understood that whatever Nabal would give up, when David became king, he would not forget the good shown to him by Nabal, and the generosity would be returned.

D. However, none of this was going to be the case.

1. The response Nabal gave was a response of contempt.

2. “Who is David, but a mere servant having broken away from his master!” was Nabal’s response.

3. David, anticipating a favorable response of generosity was set back by the reply given him and was, he thought, justified in being angry.

E. Nabal was going to pay! (25:13)

1. 1 Samuel 25:13, David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies. (NIV)
Abigail Intercepted David

1 Samuel 25:14-35, One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him." Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!" When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. She fell at his feet and said: "My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent. "Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal. And
let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you. Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master 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. When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant."

David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak." Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."

(NIV)

I. Abigail was told the situation.

A. The young men David sent to Nabal turned around and departed (25:12); however, one of them (maybe more) must have stayed long enough to let Abigail know (25:14-17); (note the use of the words “us” and “we” in verses 15-16), the particulars of the situation.

1. 1 Samuel 25:12, 14-17, David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent
messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him." (NIV)

B. The young man knew that David was going to react to this snub violently – although it is possible that one of the young men could have returned to let Abigail know what was going to take place.

C. The young men had been given the opportunity to see Nabal’s horrendous attitude.

1. Now the attitude of Nabal, as expressed to Abigail, was already well known amongst the servants.

   a. Nabal’s attitude was not a good one!

   b. No one could reason with him.

   c. It didn’t matter to Nabal what the truth of the situation was.

   d. Not even possible benefits which might have accrued to Nabal in return for his generosity influenced him to do right by David.

D. The events in David’s life brought him to Nabal.

1. Now Nabal was on the verge of being destroyed by the one he had snubbed.
II. Abigail took charge of the situation.

A. 1 Samuel 25:18-35, Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!" When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. She fell at his feet and said: "My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent. "Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal. And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you. Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master 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. When
the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant." David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak." Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request." (NIV)

B. She took enough provisions to satisfy the needs of David and his men.

C. She sent her servants with the food before her in order for David’s men to receive and be distracted until she arrived.

1. How much farther back she was is not stated.

2. Knowing Nabal was one with whom she could not reason, she did not tell him of her plans.

3. Abigail intercepted David as he and his men approached to destroy Nabal.

D. As you look at verses 21-22, note the intensity of David’s anger.
1. 1 Samuel 25:21,22, David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!" (NIV)

2. The good David proffered toward Nabal was rebuffed and his men were humiliated by the rejection of Nabal’s evil toward David’s good.

   a. David swore to the Lord that he would kill Nabal and all his men.

E. When Abigail arrived and saw David she prostrated herself before him as an inferior would to a superior.

   1. David had already received the provisions.

   2. His distraction was enough to let Abigail fall before him and address him.

   3. The first thing she did was to humble herself before him, then take responsibility for the lack of provisions given, and then she requested David to disregard the evil actions of her husband who, she said, was a man one could not reason with.

       a. David was impressed!

F. In the following verses (26-31) Abigail spoke to David in a very flattering way.

   1. 1 Samuel 25:26-31, "Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD
lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal. And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you. Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master 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. When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant." (NIV)

2. The Lord had held David back from bloodshed, thus expressing the Lord’s favor toward David.

   a. Because of His love of David the Lord would address Nabal in His own due time (which, it turned out, was a very short time later).

3. Abigail did see herself as an inferior to a superior by addressing David as her “lord,” and by giving the gift of provisions as would a subject to a man of authority.

4. Again, she requested that forgiveness be given for her “iniquity” (verse 24), making it clear that David was in a position to do so, since he fought the Lord’s battles, the Lord would be with him in this act of forgiveness.
5. It is interesting that in verses 28-31, Abigal had some inkling (or knowledge) of Saul’s having been rejected by the Lord and of David’s having been anointed by the Lord.

   a. He would have an enduring house.

   b. David’s enemies would be cast out.

6. The Lord had promised David much good, and it would come to pass when he became ruler over Israel.

7. At the time she asked David that she be remembered because she did intercept him and prevent him from slaughtering the innocent – she knew David would accept her words as reasonable, quite reasonable.

G. David was impressed with this woman, and he was grateful to God that He sent her to intercept him. (25:32)

   1. 1 Samuel 25:32, David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. (NIV)

   2. David was very grateful because he understood how close the situation actually came to execution (pun intended).

   3. Having received Abigail, he sent her home in peace and with reassurance.

The Death of Nabal

1 Samuel 25:36-43, When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. Then in the
morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head." Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife." She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master's servants." Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David's messengers and became his wife. David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both were his wives. (NIV)

I. Abigail told Nabal what had happened.

A. 1 Samuel 25:36-38, When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died. (NIV)

B. Because of the festive occasion and the fact that Nabal was drunk and even worse than unreasonable, Abigail thought it would be best to tell her husband the next day what had transpired and how close to death he actually had come.

C. When he heard from his wife all that had transpired, his heart became like a stone.
1. There is no way to know what actually happened with Nabal’s heart; we do not know if it was a physical matter like a stroke, heart attack, or something else (Youngblood, p. 763).

2. On the other hand, there is a suggestion that “when he had become sober, she related the matter to him; whereat he was so terrified, that he was smitten with a stroke” (Keil and Delitzsch, E-Sword).

3. Since the heart is the seat of courage, it might have been that Nabal’s courage – whatever might have been there – froze up so that he was unable to do much of anything at all realizing how close he had come to a violent death (Exodus 15:16).

   a. Exodus 15:16, terror and dread will fall upon them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone—until your people pass by, O LORD, until the people you bought pass by. (NIV)

4. Ten (10) days later the Lord brought judgment on Nabal, and he died.

II. David took Abigail as his wife.

   A. 1 Samuel 25:39-43, When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head." Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife." She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "Here is your maidservant, ready to serve...
you and wash the feet of my master's servants." Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David's messengers and became his wife. David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both were his wives. (NIV)

B. Note David’s response to the death of Nabal; it seemed rather callous.

1. Gordon is quick to point out that Christians are not to emulate the actions of David in this case (p. 186).

2. It should be noted, however, that the Lord determined the life span of Nabal.

C. David then proposed to Abigail asking her to become his wife.

1. She accepted and went to him.

   a. Perhaps David admired Abigail for her courage and Abigail respected David as the Lord’s anointed future king of Israel.

   b. Commentators note that in the manner of the East, monarchs would propose to a woman they saw as attractive and that they would propose quickly.

   c. This alliance between David and Abigail also brought Nabal’s wealth to David and his men.

D. David also had Ahinoam as his wife.

1. Little is known of her except that she and Abigail are mentioned together three times, and she is always mentioned first.
2. She is the mother of David’s first born, Amnon. (2 Samuel 3:2)

   a. 2 Samuel 3:2, Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel; (NIV)

Saul’s Effort to Remove David

1 Samuel 25:44, But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel son of Laish, who was from Gallim. (NIV)

I. David was son-in-law to the king.

   A. Now Saul removed David’s connection to the king by giving his wife (Michal) to another man.

      1. Imagine the tragedy to occur when David could “make things right.” (2 Samuel 3:13-16).

         a. 2 Samuel 3:13-16, "Good," said David. "I will make an agreement with you. But I demand one thing of you: Do not come into my presence unless you bring Michal daughter of Saul when you come to see me." Then David sent messengers to Ish-Bosheth son of Saul, demanding, "Give me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to myself for the price of a hundred Philistine foreskins." So Ish-Bosheth gave orders and had her taken away from her husband Paltiel son of Laish. Her husband, however, went with her, weeping behind her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go back home!" So he went back. (NIV)
B. When man plays a role to make things right apart from God’s will, tragedy is inevitable.

1. Michal was David’s wife; Saul had no authority to remove his wife from him and give her to another man.

2. Saul was clearly vindictive.
Questions

1 Samuel 25:1-44

(Questions based on NIV text.)

1. As this chapter opens, what situation faced David?

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________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. “________________________, and ________________________ assembled and ________________________ for him; and they ____________________ him at his __________________________ in __________________________.”

3. “________________________ moved down into the __________________________ of __________________________.” Geographically locate this place. __________________________

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4. Who was Nabal? What kind of person was he? Consider the entire chapter before answering. __________________________

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5. Who was Abigail? What kind of person was she? Consider the entire chapter before answering. _______________________________

6. Who were the Calebites? _______________________________

7. David sent messengers to Nabal. What request did they make of Nabal? _______________________________

8. When did David befriend Nabal’s shepherds? Give details. _______
9. What answer did Nabal give David’s servants? What significance can be attached to the fact that Nabal delayed his answer to David’s servants? __________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
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__________________________________________________________

10. When David’s messengers gave their report, what was David’s response? Was this an appropriate response for a man of God? _______
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

11. One of Nabal’s servants reported to Abigail Nabal’s response to David’s messengers. What did he tell her? ___________________
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__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

12. What was Abigail’s response to the report she had heard? Was her response well planned and well timed? Explain. ________________
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__________________________________________________________
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__________________________________________________________
13. Tell of Abigail’s meeting David. Was it at an opportune moment?

14. What did Abigail think of her husband? What does your husband/wife think of you?

15. When should we act quickly? When should we delay action? Give examples of each. How important is timing?


17. What was David’s response to Abigail’s diplomacy?
18. What was Nabal doing when Abigail returned home? ____________

19. Abigail told Nabal the following morning what had happened. What then happened to Nabal? ________________

20. How many lives did Abigail save by her wise diplomacy? ________

21. Upon hearing of Nabal’s death, what did David do? ____________

22. How long did it take Abigail to decide what she should do in response to David’s proposal? Abigail swapped a fool for a king. Was that a “good deal”? ____________________
23. Which one did Abigail love or love more, Nabal or David? ....both, neither, Nabal or David? Give reasons for your answer. 

24. At this time, how many wives did David have? 

25. What had happened to Michal? Did David ever get her back? 
