

I. Introduction.

II. Nabal insults David – Two wrongs don’t make a right. v. 2-13

- A. Introducing Nabal and his wife. v. 2-3,17,25**
 - 1. Nabal is a man of wealth and importance. v. 2**
 - 2. Nabal is harsh, evil, and foolish. v. 3b,17,21,25 Ps. 14:1 Isa. 32:6 Lu. 12:15-21**
 - 3. Abigail is a woman of exceptional beauty and wisdom. v. 3a 16:12 Pr. 3:4 11:22**

- B. David politely requests provisions from Nabal. v. 4-8**
 - 1. The time of sheep shearing was a festive time. v. 2b,4,8,36 Dt. 14:28ff 26:10ff**
 - 2. David sends a delegation to Nabal. v. 4-6**
 - 3. Nabal is reminded of the benefits he has received from David. v. 7-8,15-16**
 - 4. Is this a shakedown (or a sheik-down)?**

- C. Nabal rudely refuses David’s request – the first wrong. v. 9-11**
 - 1. He belittles and insults David. v. 10**
 - 2. He foolishly refuses to return good for the good he received. v. 11**

- D. David prepares to take vengeance on Nabal – the second wrong. v. 13,21-22,33**
 - 1. He is vengefully returning evil for evil. 24:17 Pr. 17:13 Rom. 12:17ff**
 - 2. Whom does David sound like? 14:24**

III. Abigail rescues her family from death and David from sin. v. 14-31

- A. Abigail learns what Nabal has done. v. 14-17**

- B. Abigail hurriedly prepares to meet and propitiate David. v. 18-22 Gen. 32:6ff 33:11f**

- C. Abigail appeals to David – a masterpiece of female wisdom and charm. v. 23-31**
 - 1. She approaches David humbly and respectfully. v. 23,24b**
 - 2. She takes her husband’s guilt upon herself. v. 24a Gen. 2:24**
 - 3. She acknowledges that her husband is a worthless fool. v. 25 26:21**
 - 4. “The LORD has restrained you, thus far, from shedding blood.” v. 26a**
 - 5. “Please receive my propitiatory gift and forgive.” v. 27-28a Gen. 50:17 Ps. 32:1,5**
 - 6. “The LORD will exalt, protect, and avenge you.” v. 28b-30 13:14 II Sa. 7**
 - 7. “Don’t taint your reign with bloodguilt by wickedly avenging yourself.” v. 31a**
 - 8. “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” v. 31 Ge. 40:14 Luke 23:42f**

IV. The LORD orchestrates a glorious outcome. v. 32-44

- A. David heeds Abigail’s wise words. v. 32-35**
 - 1. Unlike Nabal, David listens to wise counsel. v. 32,35b,17**
 - 2. He praises the LORD for sending this wise woman. v. 32-34**
 - 3. He receives her propitiatory gift and sends her away in peace. v. 35,6**
 - 4. David breaks his foolish vow. v. 22 Judges 11:29ff Mt. 14:7-9**

- B. The LORD vindicates David by killing Nabal. v. 36-39 Pr. 20:22**
 - 1. Nabal holds a royal feast and becomes drunk. v. 36 Pr. 26:9 30:21-22**
 - 2. Nabal’s heart fails and the LORD takes him. v. 37-38 Luke 12:16-20 Acts 12:22ff**
 - 3. David recognizes that vengeance belongs the LORD. v. 39a 24:15 26:10 Ps. 43:1**

- C. Nabal's loss is David's gain – Abigail becomes David's wife. v. 39b-44 I Co. 7:39
 - 1. What is David doing with all of these wives? v. 43 Deut. 17:17 Mt. 19:1ff
 - 2. Saul wickedly gives David's wife Michal to another man. v. 44 II Sam. 3:13ff

V. Application.

- A. Abigail is a model of how to confront someone (even a person in authority) about their sin. v. 23-24 Gal. 6:1 Pr. 15:15 28:23 Mt. 18:15 James 5:19
- B. The Bible takes a high view of strong women like Abigail. I Sam. 1-2 Luke 1:26ff
 - 1. Was Abigail wrong to go behind her husband's back? v. 19,37 Acts 5:29
 - 2. Did Abigail speak disrespectfully of her husband? v. 25
 - 3. When might a wife today have to act like Abigail?
- C. How do you respond to correction? Pr. 17:10 19:25 25:12,28
 - 1. Are you like Nabal, who won't listen? v. 17 Prov. 15:12
 - 2. Do you become angry and defensive when people try to correct you? Js. 1:19f
 - 3. Will you listen to someone who is younger or under your authority?
 - 4. David blesses God for sending Abigail. Is that how you react? Prov. 15:31-32
- D. Give thanks to God for how He restrains you from evil. v. 26,34,39 I Co. 10:12-13
 - 1. Like David, we are weak and vulnerable to sin. II Sam. 11 I Cor. 10:12
 - 2. Revenge can be an especially strong temptation. v. 21-22 Ro. 12:17ff
 - 3. The LORD uses different means to deliver us from temptation. Mt. 6:13
- E. Are you a fool?
 - 1. You can be very successful in an earthly sense and still be a fool. v. 2-3,17,25
 - 2. We all were once like Nabal – foolish, proud, and independent. Titus 3:3
 - 3. God had mercy on us by forgiving and transforming us. Titus 3:4-8

VI. Concluding applications:

- A. Who is the hero of I Samuel 25?
- B. Where do we see Christ in this passage?
 - 1. Like David, Jesus sends his servants offering His peace. v. 5-6 Mt. 10:9
 - 2. Like David, Jesus did not take vengeance on His enemies. I Pe. 2:21ff
 - 3. Like Abigail, Jesus took our blame and propitiated God's wrath against us. v. 24 II Co. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 Isa. 53:4-6
 - 4. Abigail, a person of great importance, is prepared to wash feet. v. 41 John 13:1ff
 - 5. The dying thief, like Abigail, believed God's Anointed One would soon reign and asked to be remembered in His Kingdom. v. 30,31b Luke 23:42-43
 - 6. You, like Abigail, are invited to be the bride of Christ. v. 39b

Questions

1. Was David carrying on a protection racket?
2. What can you learn from Abigail about how to correct someone in authority over you?
3. Are you the kind of person who receives correction well? Or do you get defensive?
4. Can you think of times in which the LORD has providentially restrained you from sin?
5. Which of the characteristics of a fool, in Proverbs, are seen in Nabal?
6. What is the fool's fundamental problem?
7. Which of the characteristics of a wise woman (in Proverbs 31) are seen in Abigail?
8. When is a wife to, like Abigail, take matters into her own hands, even if it means going against her husband's wishes?
9. Where in this passage do you see Christ?