

Responding with Wisdom Instead of Anger

The prophet **Samuel died**, and all of Israel mourned him. Meanwhile, David moved to the wilderness of Paran.

During this time, there was a wealthy man named **Nabal**, who lived in Maon but had property in Carmel. He owned **3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats**, and it was the time for **shearing**—a season of **profit and celebration**. But while Nabal had **great wealth**, he had **no wisdom or kindness**. He was **harsh, stubborn, and evil**, while his wife, **Abigail**, was the opposite—**wise, discerning, and beautiful**.

David, knowing that his men had **protected Nabal's shepherds** in the wilderness, sent **ten young men** with a message of **peace and goodwill**. David **didn't demand payment** but simply asked for **hospitality** during this season of plenty.

Nabal's **response** was **prideful and insulting**:

"Who is David? Who is this son of Jesse? These days, lots of servants are running away from their masters! Should I take my bread, my water, and my meat and give it to people I don't even know?"

When David's men returned and reported this, **David's anger flared up**.

"Every man, put on your sword!" he commanded, leading **400 armed men** toward Nabal's estate. **David was ready for revenge**.

But meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants, who had witnessed everything, went to **Abigail**, saying, *"David's men treated us well in the wilderness. They protected us and never took anything from us. But our master Nabal insulted them! Now trouble is coming because no one can reason with him!"*

Abigail's Quick and Wise Response

Abigail **didn't waste time**. She immediately gathered **a generous gift**:

- **200 loaves of bread**
- **Two skins of wine**
- **Five sheep already cooked**
- **Roasted grain, raisins, and fig cakes**

She sent her servants ahead and rode out to **intercept David** before he could take vengeance.

As she approached, David was **still fuming**:

"I wasted my time protecting this man's property, and this is how he repays me? By morning, not a single male in his household will be left alive!"

But before David could act in **anger**, Abigail **humbly bowed before him** and **spoke words of wisdom and peace**:

"Please let me take the blame. I didn't see your men when they came. My husband is foolish—his

name, Nabal, literally means 'fool,' and he lives up to it. But don't let his wickedness cause you to sin by shedding innocent blood. The Lord has kept you from making a mistake. You will be king one day, and when that time comes, you don't want this act of revenge on your conscience. God will deal with your enemies—trust Him."

David's Change of Heart

David **paused, listened, and recognized** that Abigail was right.

"Praise the Lord who sent you to me today! You have saved me from shedding blood. Your wisdom has stopped me from taking vengeance into my own hands."

David **accepted her gifts and turned back, sparing Nabal's life.**

When Abigail returned home, **Nabal was drunk**, celebrating like he was a king. She **waited until morning** to tell him what had happened. When she did, **he had a heart attack and became like stone. Ten days later, he died.**

When David heard of Nabal's death, he recognized it as **God's justice.**

"The Lord has defended my cause. He kept me from doing wrong and repaid Nabal for his wickedness."

David then sent messengers to **ask Abigail to become his wife.** She humbly accepted, saying,

"Let me be a servant to wash the feet of your men."

She quickly **left with her five attendants** and became **David's wife.**

Personal Application: What Can We Learn?

1. Don't Let Someone Else's Foolishness Make You Act Foolishly

- Nabal was **rude, selfish, and arrogant.** David had every **human** reason to be angry, but revenge would have **led him into sin.**
- **Proverbs 14:29** – *"He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly."*
- **Application:** People will **offend, insult, and mistreat** us. But **we have a choice**—will we react in **anger and sin**, or will we trust God to handle it?

2. Wise and Godly Counsel Can Save You from a Big Mistake

- Abigail **was bold and wise.** She didn't just watch disaster unfold—she **stepped in** and gave David a **perspective beyond the moment.**
- **Proverbs 19:20** – *"Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days."*
- **Application:** Sometimes **pride keeps us from listening** to good advice. Are you open to correction? Do you have **wise people** in your life who can **speak truth** when you're upset or emotional?

3. Acting in Anger Can Have Lasting Consequences

- If David had followed through on his anger, he would have committed **murder**. He would have regretted it later.
- **James 1:19-20** – *"Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."*
- **Application:** When you're **angry, pause and pray** before you act. Ask yourself, *"How will I feel about this choice tomorrow?"*

4. God Handles Justice Better Than We Can

- **David wanted to take revenge**, but God **took care of Nabal in His own way**. David didn't have to **dirty his hands**.
- **Romans 12:19** – *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."*
- **Application:** When someone **wrongs you**, instead of plotting **revenge**, **give it to God**. He **sees everything** and will handle it **far better** than we ever could.

5. Humility and Wisdom Make a Person Truly Beautiful

- Abigail was **physically beautiful**, but more importantly, she was **wise, courageous, and humble**.
- **1 Peter 3:4** – *"Let your beauty be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."*
- **Application:** True beauty is not just **external** but is seen in a **heart of wisdom, kindness, and humility**.

Final Challenge

- Is there **someone in your life** like Nabal—stubborn, arrogant, and unkind?
- Are you tempted to **react in anger** rather than **trusting God**?
- Do you have the **humility to receive correction** like David did?
- Are you developing the kind of **wisdom, grace, and courage** that Abigail showed?

God calls us to be **people of peace, wisdom, and self-control**. Instead of reacting in **anger or pride**, may we **seek God's wisdom and trust Him to handle our battles**.