

Wisdom vs. Foolishness

Scripture: 1 Samuel 25

Memory Verse: The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Proverbs 4:7

Aim: God's ways are the only right ways

Still running from Saul, David moved down to the wilderness of Maona, where there was a wealthy rancher named Nabal. His wife's name was Abigail. She was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings.

At the end of the pasture season, when the sheep were brought in for sheering (money time), David sent some of his men to ask Nabal if he would share some of his profits with David and his men. David thought this was a reasonable request, because he and his men had camped near Nabal's flocks and shepherds, and had helped keep them safe (a fact that was verified by Nabal's shepherds).

But Nabal was not at all thankful for what David and his men had done, so he refused to give them food and provisions.

David became very mad, and decided to go to battle with Nabal.

Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them. These men have been very good to us. In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep. You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for Nabal and his whole family. He's so mean-tempered that no one can even talk to him!"

Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered food to feed David and his 600 men, then went out to meet David.

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. She fell at his feet and said, "Please listen to what I have to say. I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I have come here to make things right,"

"Now, here is a present that I have brought to you and your young men. Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The Lord will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the Lord's battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life.

David replied to Abigail, "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from carrying out vengeance with my own hands."

When Abigail arrived home, she waited until the next day to tell Nabal what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and he lay paralyzed on his bed like a stone. About ten days later, the Lord struck him, and he died.

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise the Lord, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin." Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife.