

SECOND DAY: Read 1 Samuel 25:(1)2-17

1. Read again 1 Samuel 25:2,3. In that culture the couple's parents often arranged the marriage. Probably not by her own choice Abigail was married to a man who was harsh and evil in his doings (verse 3b NKJV). What do you think it must have been like for her?

a. It is interesting that Abigail's name means *father (source) of joy*. She had little cause for joy in the circumstances of her life. How might her difficulties have provided the opportunity to discover Father God as her *source of joy*?

(1.) God is also our source of joy. How should this minister to a believer who is in a hard place today?

2. Read 1 Samuel 25:4-13. *Maon and Carmel* (verse 2) were in the southern part of Judah. David and his men were in this area where *Nabal did shear his sheep*. From these verses briefly describe the scenes that set the stage for our next view of Abigail.

a. Notice in verse 11 Nabal's repeated use of the pronoun *my*. What does this reveal about him?

3. *Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her* (1 Samuel 25:14a NLT). View the frightened servant's report to Abigail in 1 Samuel 25:14b-17. Summarize his message and urgent appeal.

a. In this crisis the servant approached Abigail. What does this say to you about her?

THIRD DAY: Read 1 Samuel 25:18-22

1. 1 Samuel 25:18-22 continues this fascinating story where we observe Abigail's prompt action to correct the problem her husband created. From the following verses note what she did in this emergency situation:

a. verse 18

b. verse 19

(1.) Why do you think she sent the food ahead of her?

c. verse 20

d. What qualities do you see in her through her behavior?

2. David expected the wealthy Nabal to offer food to his men as a reward for protecting Nabal's shepherds and flocks. Nabal's response was even more offensive because Middle Eastern customs of courtesy required the providing of food for strangers. Notice David's vow from 1 Samuel 25:22 NKJV: *May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light.* According to 1 Samuel 25:21 why did he feel justified in taking revenge?

a. What do Deuteronomy 32:35a and Romans 12:19 declare about vengeance?

3. Abigail was a woman of *good understanding* (verse 3} When her household was in great danger she acted in wisdom. How can we become women of wisdom and good understanding? Answer from the following verses:

a. Proverbs 2:2-6

b. Proverbs 9:10

c. James 1:5,6a

FOURTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 25:23-25

1. Think of this beautiful woman, Abigail and her incredible knowledge of God and His ways revealed through her wise counsel to David. Write phrases or sentences from 1 Samuel 25:23-31 that confirm this. Selah
 - a. Consider Abigail's attitude and actions. What impresses you most about her?
 - b. Share at least one thing you learn about the Lord from these verses.

Advanced Students: Research and briefly explain her statement: *the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God* (verse 29).

2. Read 1 Samuel 25:32-35 and concentrate on David's response to Abigail's courageous, humble appeal. How was she able to influence him?
3. Who did David credit for sending Abigail to him? See 1 Samuel 25:32.
 - a. How might the Lord use you to prevent someone from erring?

*Timely advice is as lovely as golden apples in a silver basket.
Valid criticism is as treasured by the one who heeds it
as jewelry made from finest gold.*

Proverbs 25:11,12 NLT

FIFTH DAY: Read 1 Samuel 25:36-42

1. Read 1 Samuel 25:36-38 and view the pivotal turn of events when Abigail returned home. In your own words give an account of what happened.
 - a. Record characteristics you see in Abigail from these verses.

2. How did God intervene on behalf of Abigail and David according to I Samuel 25:38,39?

3. In what amazing way did Abigail's life change after the death of Nabal? Answer from 1 Samuel 25:40-42.
 - a. Pause and think about verse 41, especially the phrase *let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord*. She would be content to wash feet — the feet of David's servants. What does this reveal about her?
 - (1.) Define the word *humility*.

 - (2.) We live in a world where *humility* is not a much appreciated virtue, but in God's sight it is of great value. Find and share a scripture about *humility*.

4. According to 2 Samuel 3:(2)3 how did the Lord bless the union of David and Abigail?

*For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

Luke 14:11 NKJV

