

The Wise Woman

1 Samuel 25:1-8

Life Group Discussion – July 15th, 2018

This passage is during a difficult time in David's life. He had helped a rich man named Nabal and asked for a small favor but was rejected. He was riding with 600 other soldiers and had protected Nabal's shepherds and his flocks that happened to be traveling alongside them. One day, David and his men were extremely hungry and thirsty and asked the rich man, Nabal, if he could provide food and water.

But Nabal was extremely foolish. He not only rejected David, but cursed him as well. Because of his actions, David decided to kill him but was only stopped through the wise actions of Nabal's wife, Abigail.

Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. (1 Samuel 25:1)

Samuel was David's spiritual father and his death hurt David immensely. He was directionless for a time, and it was during this mourning period that David almost killed an entire household.

David sent his servants to ask Nabal for help but instead of helping, Nabal insults David.

And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. (1 Samuel 25:10)

Nabal attacked David's very identity, proclaiming him unimportant and unworthy to be known.

Satan attacks this area in our life because we are weakest in our identity. David was able to overcome so many obstacles before, but after the death of Samuel, David began to stumble and was led astray by one man's actions.

No matter how good someone's spiritual life may seem, there will be times when they are not full of the Holy Spirit or spiritually aligned with the Lord.

If David had acted out of anger and massacred the entire household of Nabal, this would have haunted him when he became King. People live in the present and never think about their actions and how it could affect their future standing. Do not regret your actions as you get older.

When we are spiritually weak, we cannot act rashly or quickly. More often than not, we will make decisions based on our emotions rather than the Bible and that is when we will make mistakes that cannot be erased.

The reason why David did not go through with this act was because God sent Abigail to stop him.

When Abigail heard about what happened, she quickly prepared the food and sent it out to David and his men.

Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. (1 Samuel 25:18-19)

Instead of asking for permission, Abigail realized that she needed to act quickly to avoid disaster. She made ready the food and went to David.

When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. (1 Samuel 25:23)

Abigail did not make any excuses but simply put her face to the ground and asked for forgiveness. She asked that David would let go of his anger for her husband and forgive him as well.

Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. (1 Samuel 25:25)

Abigail did not excuse her husband but accepted the fact that he was foolish. In fact, his name "Nabal" actually means folly and Abigail accepts this about him.

To accept that someone in your own family did something wrong is not easy. But Abigail sees the foolishness of her husband and asks for his forgiveness.

Then she says something very important.

If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the Lord your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when the Lord has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant.” (1 Samuel 25:29-31)

If David were truly to be king of Israel, the action that he would have taken would cause much regret because it would be from him, and not from the Lord. God was speaking through Abigail. Even though this was not a pleasant word to hear, it was a word that was needed in David's life.

God will give opportunities to stop sin in your life. He will present ideas, people, and things to turn you away from temptation and sin. One of those ways is through the Word of God.

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. (Psalm 19:7-8)

Therefore those with faith must be sensitive to God's Word and immediately respond to it.

God used Abigail to stop David from committing a great sin out of his anger. When we look at Abigail, we can see how the "Proverbs 31 Woman" applies to her.

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. (Proverbs 31:10)

Abigail was a woman who truly lived by the Word of God.

The greatest blessing a man can have is marrying a faithful and wise woman. You can have someone like Abigail, who saved her entire household through her wisdom or someone like Eve, who led Adam astray and brought sin into the world.

I hope that all of our sisters follow after Abigail and cling on to the Word of the Lord and become women who are full of wisdom and knowledge. I pray that our sisters will be wives who love the Lord and support their husbands with discernment and faith.

SHARING-----

1. Was there a time when you made an unwise or hurried decision without consulting or praying to the Lord? Please share.
2. The people of God can live a godly life by following what God says. When we look at the life of Abigail, we can see a woman that was dedicated to her family and to her church. What part of her life do you want to model after?