

Wednesday, May 13th Bible Study Notes
Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live
Text: 1 Samuel 25:2-42 (The Wisdom of Abigail)

Check-In:

- How are you feeling today? How is your self-care?
- Margie Donlon – 24 ways to help during quarantine
 - Lower expectations and practice radical self-acceptance
 - Stick to a routine – something that is predictable, unchanging, not about rigid schedule but about not getting paralyzed
 - Reach out to others
 - Stay hydrated and eat well
 - Develop a self-care tool kit
 - Limit media
 - Find lightness and humor in each day
 - Find something you can control
 - Last week: Joe Carter, *How To Manage Stress During The Coronavirus Crisis*
- Tonight: *Get outside at least once a day, for at least thirty minutes, while practicing social distancing. If you are high-risk or living with those who are high-risk, open the windows and blast the fan. It is amazing how much fresh air can do for spirits.*

Tonight:

- Abigail means leader of the dance. Also means joy.
- Name of two women—the sister of David, and the woman we’re looking at today
- Abigail showed great wisdom in how she handled her husband’s attack on David

Who Were Nabal and Abigail? (vv 2-3)

- Abigail was an intelligent, beautiful, clever woman
- Nabal was surly and mean and drunk. Name means “fool” in Hebrew.
- Marriages were arranged for the prosperity or alliance between the sets of parents.
- One of the commentaries I looked at said that Nabal was most likely a high official of some kind. He was very wealthy and very selfish.
- Calebite... “Caleb” signifies “a dog” or a man of a stingy disposition. Calebites in general were not great people.

David’s Request (4-8)

- David heard that Nabal was in the wilderness and sent his men to him.
- David was in the midst of battle and had begun to run out of food. He was hoping that Nabal would be kind.
- David’s men had protected Nabal’s shepherds throughout the grazing season. It was no uncommon for shepherds to be beaten and sheep stolen.
- It was common for wealthy people to provide food for traveling armies.
- Not required, but requested. They were hungry.

Nabal's Response (vv 9-13)

- Nabal's words back to the men that David sent were an attack. The word "answered" in Hebrew actually means "to shriek" or "to fly at." He flew off the handle at these hungry men who had protected his servants.
- We see his arrogance in his continued use of the words "I" or "me."
- Nabal just put his life and the life of his family in danger by the way he acted.
- David began seeking revenge—he took four hundred men with him. It shows that most likely David intends harm to everyone in the house, and shows he was not handling himself very well. He wanted personal revenge.

Abigail's Wisdom (vv 14-35)

- For them to be able to spare that food shows us again how wealthy Nabal was.
- It would have been nothing for him to grant David's request for a feast. He would not have been inconvenienced at all. Picture having a 100 bottles of water available and a thirsty person asking for one.
- Abigail knows it is up to her to save the household—she goes against her husband's wishes, which is dangerous. And for a king to talk to a woman without her husband or instead of her husband was unheard of.
- Abigail asks David's forgiveness on behalf of her husband and then she reminds David of his role as follower of God. In case David forgot, and think of all the things we forget when we are angry, he has a military role to fight when God calls him to, but this time he has a personal vendetta he is now pursuing.
- Verse 32: David praises God for sending Abigail to stop him. If he had followed through on his revenge, he would have been no better than his father-in-law Saul, who pursued David out of jealousy and spite and tried to kill him.

Nabal's Downfall (vv 36-42)

- Abigail goes home and finds her husband having a feast that he denied David
- His heart dies and then God strikes him down.
- David sends for Abigail to be his wife. Her life improves significantly.

What We Learn From Abigail

- Wise: stuck in this marriage to a fool, but she did not give in and act the way he did. She did, however, recognize that her husband had done a foolish thing, and interceded on Nabal's behalf. She was known later for giving David excellent advice when he was king—he depended on her. God had truly given her the gift of wisdom.
- Courageous: risked her life to do what she did. In those times, women didn't just not have a say, but they were considered their husband's property. Nabal could have sent her away or even killed her for defying him. Going to meet David took a lot of courage.
- Faithful: believed in God and spoke forth His message to David (1 Samuel 25:26). Abigail was rewarded for her faithfulness – she became wife to David, the future King (1 Samuel 25:42).
- Are we wise, courageous, and faithful in how we live our lives? Are we wise in what we listen to and how we respond to others? Do we show courage in how we follow Christ even when others stray? Are we faithful – do we trust God even in the midst of so much uncertainty?