

1st Samuel Chapter 25

"A wise woman, and a foolish king"

Here again we see that David is presented in less than a perfect light; a man after God's own heart, but subject to human frailties, less than perfect – yet still usable by God.

V: 1 Samuel dies and is buried in his house in Rama, present day Nebi (map) Samwil. No elaborate tomb, just in the garden, in a cave at his house.

- Samuel, a life well lived; dedicated to God before he was even conceived; served the Lord all the days of his life.
- The Lord used Samuel to bring the Word of God back to the people.

1 Samuel 3:21 “And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord.”

- Samuel was a man of prayer.

1 Samuel 12:23 “God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and right way.”

- All Israel attended his funeral.
- David was in the “strong hold” (Masada) 1 Samuel 24:22, then went to the wilderness of Paran.
- While this was a loss to the nation; this had to be a deep personal loss to David, the loss of a friend, protector, and mentor.

V: 2-3 Nabal of Maon / Carmel (map) wealthy, prosperous, and a total jerk, “churlish” - cruel.

- Abigail = “My Father Rejoiced” – Good looking & smart, evidence of an arranged marriage.

V: 4-9 Sheep shearing is a festive time, kind of like the harvest, it's a time to celebrate – the shearing and sale of the wool brings in a lot of income, especially to a man who has 3,000 sheep and a thousand goats.

- Part of the festivities, celebrating the blessings of God, traditionally a time of giving gifts, sharing the abundance, looking to the less fortunate.
- David is aware of Nabal and his wealth because he and his men had been protecting his shepherds and sheep out in the wilderness from the Philistines.
- David sends a delegation to Nabal in his name because there was an expectation that Nabal who had benefited from David's protection and honesty. David and his men did not take anything from him by force, they had dealt kindly

with Nabal's servants; David figured that Nabal would return the favor and minister to the needs of David and his men.

Proverbs 3:27 “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.”

- Whatsoever cometh into thy hand – no set fee, no real pressure.

V: 10-13 Nabal = “fool”, “rude”, “ill bread” – probably not his name at birth, but a name earned later in life.

- Nabal insults David, who is David? Nabal refers to him as a run away servant turns his men away empty handed,
- Who is David? Man of war, slayer of giants, David who has killed is 10,000's...
- Nabal isn't considering the possible consequences of his insults.

Galatians 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

- David's men return and report what took place and David get's pretty upset, takes the insult to heart and takes 400 men to avenge himself upon Nabal.
- Sometimes after the seemingly bigger battles, like the temptation to slay Saul in the cave – the bigger battle being won, it's the smaller temptations / battles that get to us.

Song of Solomon 2:15 “Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.”

- Sometimes it's the little things that stumble us.
- Notice that David didn't inquire of God about dealing with Nabal; David is reacting in the flesh – which should be familiar to most of us.
- David could forgive Saul for trying to kill him, but he would kill a man for refusing him a meal – this is not a capital crime.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

V: 14-17 One of the servants goes to tell Abigail, Nabal's wife what her husband had done – how he had “railed” on David's men.

- David is coming to settle the score with all the household, he's in the flesh, responding in the flesh, it's a bad scene.
- The servant describes Nabal as a son of Belial, a son of the Devil, a wicked man – unreasonable, can't talk to him.

V: 18-22 Abigail responds quickly with great wisdom: she prepares a generous gift intended to help smooth over the insult – to pay the debt.

1. 200 loaves, two bottles / skins of wine – the elements of communion.
 2. 5 sheep, 5 being the number of grace, sheep representing a sin offering.
 3. Parched corn, raisins, figs – fruit of the harvest, part of the abundance.
- Sending the servants and gifts ahead, then coming behind on a donkey – they are met by David and his men – just as David has sworn to kill all the men – described in beautiful King James “imagry”.
 - A John Wayne moment: *“I’m gonna kill every mother’s son of you.”*

V: 23-31 Abigail hurry’s to de-escalate the situation:

- Abigail takes responsibility for her husband, part of her plea is to have this trespass counted against her, she acknowledges that a trespass even occurred.
- Next, she reverses everything that her husband had foolishly spoken in living up or perhaps down to his name. Who are you? You deserve to be chased around.
 1. She refers to David as her Lord throughout this dialogue. (14X’s) (deliverance)
 2. She acknowledges who David is, the rightful king, the one who fights Israel’s battles.
 3. She further acknowledges that there was no fault, no evil found in him – that he’s being pursued by Saul for no good reason.
 4. David’s life is inseparably connected, bundled to the Lord thy God.
 5. She’s talking David’s language, using the analogy of a sling which David is very familiar with – your enemies will be flung out like a rock in a sling.
 6. When, not if, you come into your kingdom, you don’t want this incident to be a regretful one to cause grief or shame for two reasons:

- V: 31
1. To have shed innocent blood, speaking of herself and the servants.
 2. To have avenged himself instead of allowing God to deal with it.

Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

7. When you come into your kingdom, remember me.

Proverbs 15:1 “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

V: 32-35 David started off angry, in the flesh, taking matters into his own hands, to take vengeance – which is out of character for David – then as David is about to what would be evil – the Lord sends an intermediary – and now David is faced with a choice – hear the voice of the Lord through Abigail, or to ignore and continue onto sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- David acknowledged that he intended to kill every man in Nabal’s household, but now he receives both her counsel and the gifts.

V: 36-38 Abigail returns home to find her husband having a great feast, a drunken feast, like the feast of a king.

- The next morning after Nabal sobered up she told him everything that had transpired and he had a heart attack – the shock, the reality of what he’d done and brought upon himself.
- Seemingly the Lord lets it sink into Nabal’s heart then it says “... the Lord smote Nabal, and he died.”

Psalms 94:22 “But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge.”

V: 39-42 David blesses the Lord that has both defended him, pleaded his cause and dealt with his enemy, and kept him from evil, from committing sin.

- David wastes no time, he sends for Abigail to take her as his wife. No mention of her grieving for her husband. For her part she doesn’t hesitate, she’s grateful, willing to just be a servant in David’s house.

V: 43-44 David wins one battle over the flesh, but then loses the next.

- David is already married to Michal, even though Saul gives her away to someone else, he takes Abigail, then another wife after that; Ahinoam (My Brother is Gracious).
- Recipe for disaster. The Bible describes marriage as good and honourable among men, the very first time we see strife in marriage is when a 3rd party is involved – David eventually has 8 wives... it can only get worse from there.

Deuteronomy 17:17 “Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.”

- Later, Ahinoam gives birth to Ammon who rapes his ½ sister Tamar which destroys David’s family.
- Nabal exalted himself, feasting like a king; and God killed him.
- Abigail humbled herself, and God made her the bride of the king.

Luke 14:11 “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

1 Samuel Chapter 26

V: 1-4 The Ziphites seek to inform Saul about David's whereabouts in the wilderness of Ziph and Saul responds again with 3,000 men.

- David is well informed and anticipates Saul's pursuit.
- This is the first time that David doesn't flee from Saul, he gathers some intelligence and waits for Saul.

V: 5-12 David spies out where Saul is in his own camp and determines once again to approach Saul unawares. Pretty bold! Saul is surrounded by 3,000 men.

- Abishai accepts.

2 Samuel 23:18 “And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three.”

- David and Abishai sneak right into Saul's camp and have the ability to kill Saul, but again David fears God too much to touch God's anointed.
- What may have appeared to be an opportunity was in fact a test, and David knew it. Just because you can doesn't mean that you should.

V: 10 David reveals his understanding that God will deal with Saul, and trusts the Lord to do just that in His time.

Psalms 37:5 “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

- To make the point to Saul, David takes his spear and his cruse of water.
- Saul was constantly hanging onto his spear, almost like a scepter – symbol of his power and authority. Taking the cruse of water demonstrating the close proximity that David had to Saul unawares, but also symbolic of that living water, the Holy Spirit.
- All of this made possible by the Lord who brought a deep sleep upon Saul, his guards, and the whole camp.

V: 13-16 After sneaking far enough away – David wakes the camp up – taunting Abner, Saul's chief general and body guard.

Proverbs 28:1 “The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.”

- David tells Abner that he's been derelict in his duty and should be killed.

- Where is the king's spear? Where is the cruse of water that was next to the king's head?
- As they looked, sure enough these things were missing – David had been there!

V: 17-18 Saul then recognizes David's voice and they seemingly pick up the conversation from a prior time – what have I done? Why are you chasing me?

V: 19-20 David again pleads his case – if the Lord has stirred you up to this then let me offer a sacrifice and get right with God, his heart is to be right with God; but if it is men who are whispering in your ear then let them be accursed!

- I'm being driven out of the land that I'm supposed to be living in to foreign lands of pagan gods.
- He's not being allowed to worship the True and Living God at the Tabernacle along with his people.

V: 21-25 Again Saul admits that he's in sin, he's been foolish – return to the land David I won't chase you anymore.

- David returns the spear to Saul, a symbol of his authority, David won't take that authority until God gives it to him.
- David says that just as Saul's life was dear to him today, so David's life is dear to the Lord, not necessarily to Saul, and God will deliver him out of all his tribulations.
- David doesn't trust Saul, but he does trust the Lord.

Psalm 62:5-6 ⁵“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. ⁶He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

- Saul blesses David: you shall do great things and you shall prevail.
- Then they part company for the last time, Saul to disgrace and death, David to ultimate glory and victory, but he still has one more test before him.
- Read ahead for chapters 27-28