

DAVID – SHAPING A SHEPHERD PART 7

“THE WISDOM OF ABIGAIL”

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 25

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INTRODUCTION

- David's heart was shaped in obscurity and solitude.
- David struggles with failure and shame.
- Last week was about David in the Cave and self-restraint.

I. FOOLISH PEOPLE

- David's story is a lesson in self-restraint.
- 1 Samuel 25:2-9 – David's request: we have done good for you; will you bless us in return?
- Do you bless others when they show you kindness?
- 1 Samuel 25:10-11, "Who is this fellow David?" Nabal sneered...¹¹ Should I take my bread...for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?"
- Nabal is a proud self-made man.
- Nabal is foolish, proud, selfish, greedy, a coward, and undisciplined.
- David has been gracious, wise, humble, selfless, courageous, just, and disciplined.
- 1 Samuel 25:12-13, "...¹³ "Get your swords!" was David's reply..."
- 1 Samuel 25:21-22, "...We protected his flocks in the wilderness...But he has repaid me evil for good...!"

II. SPIRITUAL TEAMMATES

- Abigail is a picture of the work the Spirit wants to do in us.
- Abigail is wise, humble, courageous, generous, and loyal.
- 1 Samuel 25:23-31, "When Abigail saw David, she... bowed low before him...Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered

man...He is a fool...²⁶ "Now, my lord...since the LORD has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all...who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is...³⁰ When the LORD has done all He promised and has made you leader of Israel, ³¹ don't let this be a blemish on your record...!"

- Abigail contends for what is good; for Nabal. She is interceding for him.

III. STEPPING INTO SOMEONE'S STORY

- 1 Samuel 25:32-33, David replied to Abigail, "...Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands."
- In David's hurt, anger, and hopelessness he allows himself to be offended. He reacts out of his anger.
- Reacting is instinctive and impulsive, without thought.
- Responding is deliberate and controlled.
- The difference is self-control (restraint).
- Don't fight God's battles for Him.
- The conflicts God calls us to fight are usually for others not ourselves. 1 Samuel 17:46-47
- David had already learned this lesson and like us in anger, hurt and fatigue he forgot.
- Who will tell you the truth? Who in your journey is wise, humble, and loyal?

CLOSE

- Jesus brings an upside-down Kingdom where grace triumphs over judgement, and anger is responded to with peace.
- 1 Samuel 25:29, "Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the LORD your God...!"
- Are you listening when God speaks?