

MAY 4

Abigail ~ Hebrew name meaning “My father’s joy”
1 Samuel 25

Used by God, Heard by Men

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“Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called the children of God (Matt. 5:9).

In today’s devotional, we will be reading about Abigail being used by God to mediate and de-escalate a conflict. Without the use of compassion and humility, things would have turned deadly for her household. Her gift was wisdom and discernment, and she used these qualities to approach a problem that she did not cause. Unfortunately, she was married to a man whose name meant “fool.” Nabal was churlish and evil in his doings (**1 Sam. 25:3**). David heard that Nabal was sheering his sheep and sent ten young men to his property in Carmel. They told Nabal how David and his men watched over his sheep when they resided in Carmel, not stealing or harming any of the livestock. They asked for Nabal to show favor towards David and his servants by giving them food. Nabal questioned who David was, attempting to belittle his name (**1 Sam. 25:10**) and also not giving David or his men provisions for protecting his sheep.

This angered David and ignited his pride. He gathered 400 men to settle the feud (**1 Sam. 25:13**). Word reached Abigail of David’s coming and she went out to meet him. ***“And [Nabal’s] wife’s name was Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance” (1 Sam. 25:3).*** Placed in the middle of strife between Nabal her husband and soon-to-be king David, Abigail acted quick to stop a battle from happening. She brought a peace offering unto David. Goods such as wine, loaves, sheep, corn, raisins, and cakes of fig. Deciding to personally deliver this offering along with her servants, Abigail rode out on her donkey. On the journey, she eventually met up with David. Hopping off of her donkey, she fell to her knees and at the feet of David, showing respect and reverence for his presence. She pleaded with him and asked for forgiveness for Nabal’s careless words and actions, taking responsibility to cover the iniquity of Nabal. David came to compromise with Abigail, turning his men around and no longer going to war with Nabal.

Abigail told Nabal of her journey and of how she encountered David and what would’ve happened if she hadn’t. Nabal was so grieved that his heart stopped and he became ill, dying shortly after. The Lord smote him (**1 Sam. 25:37-38**). Abigail prevented David from acting out in anger, allowing the Lord to avenge his name. ***“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto [God’s] wrath: for it is written Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in doing so thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom. 12:19-21.)*** God used Abigail to stop a battle. David was the man who heard Abigail when she spoke to him. You may have been placed in between a conflict. How can you allow God to use you as a light and bring peace?

Let’s take a moment to pray. Lord, as we face another day, we pray that we would walk according to Your will. Open our spiritual eyes to look at situations as You do, seeking to please You and use our gifts for Your kingdom and being a light in a world of darkness.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17