

1 Samuel 25

King James Version (KJV)

25 And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran. (Samuel was the last judge of Israel. He was loved and respected by the people)

In the Book of Jeremiah-15:1 (God names Samuel along with Moses as great intercessors for the people)

²And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. (the man was very great = the man was rich) (Sheep shearing time was festival and party time. They would make money selling the wool and the celebrate)

³Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb. (Nabal - means dolt or fool) (Abigail - means a father's joy) (Caleb was of Judah) (churlish - means cruel) (He probably got rich through bad business practices - ill gotten gains)

⁴And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

⁵And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

⁶And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

⁷And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. (David had protected Nabal's servants and his possessions from thieves and marauders)

⁸Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray

thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. (David is asking Nabal for surplus food to feed his army. Nabal is in his debt and he can certainly afford it. He has way more than he'll ever need)

⁹And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

¹⁰And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. (He is calling David a vagabond and a deserter to Saul. Nabal <the fool> is well named)

¹¹Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be? (my water = my wine – in the Septuagint) (I don't know David or you, so leave) (Nabal means fool in the Hebrew)

¹²So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings.

¹³And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff. (Not a good thing – for a king to lose his temper and attack his future subjects) (200 men stayed behind to watch the people and their stuff because this was a dangerous area)

(Nabal is an idiot, but David let this idiot drive him to foolishness as well. Nabal should have freely given because David was right, and Nabal had a huge surplus. However David didn't have the right to go and take what he wanted from Nabal. The food and wine belong to Nabal, not to David. - Never let a fool make a fool out of you)

(We see megalomaniacs like Nabal today as well. These are the billionaires who have more than they will ever need. The people who work in their factories are treated like slaves with no benefits and low pay. These rich fools work with our corrupt government to ensure that they can continue their monopolistic "businesses"; while the peoples' standard of living sinks lower and lower with every new year. The corrupt politicians who take bribes to support their endless greed are as guilty as they are)

¹⁴ But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. (Abigail is much wiser and far more generous than Nabal. God will use her to intercede before David kills Nabal)

¹⁵ But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: (David's men protected Nabal's men and their herds; and they never took anything in return. Nabal owes David for that, if nothing else)

¹⁶ They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

¹⁷ Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him. (for he is such a son of Belial = Nabal is a son of wickedness) (Nabal's men all know what a low life he is. You can't reason with a wicked fool)

¹⁸ Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. (Abigail gets it. She will try to make things right with David)

¹⁹ And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. (Smart woman; Nabal probably would have tried to stop her)

²⁰ And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert on the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them. (It was good of her to meet David first, before the others got there. David might have killed them in his rage)

²¹ Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good. (David was rightfully insulted)

²² So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. (The men of Nabal's house did nothing to David. They were

innocent. David intended to murder all the males of Nabal's house. Nabal was the guilty one, but even that doesn't justify murder)

²³ And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, (She is humbling herself in order to calm David down. He is clearly out of control at this time)

²⁴ And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. (Listen to what I have to say; not Nabal)

²⁵ Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. (Belial = worthless, lawless) (She is acknowledging to David that Nabal is a worthless lowlife) (Abigail never met David's messengers. She didn't know what Nabal said or did to them)

²⁶ Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. (God intervened to stop David from doing wrong) (Let all your enemies be as foolish as Nabal)

²⁷ And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord. (Take what I brought to you as a gift for your people)

²⁸ I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days. (Don't start your reign by committing murder. Abigail fully understood God's plan for David. She may have been a prophetess)

²⁹ Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling. (The bundle of life <or a bag> was used to keep something of value for safe keeping – God will keep David's souls safe in His bundle of life) (David had used a sling to bring down Goliath)

³⁰ And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; (She knows David will be the next king)

³¹ That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid. (David won't have to regret this day later, if he does not avenge himself on Nabal)

³² And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: (She calmed David down so he won't be murdering any Israelites. David now sees that his temper got out of control over a selfish fool <Nabal>)

³³ And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. (God will avenge those who are loyal to Him, and are done harm by others. Those who try to harm God's people <faithful Christians> are asking for trouble) (See Chapter-24:13 of this Book)

³⁴ For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. (David was going to kill all males in Nabal's house)

³⁵ So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person. (David accepted Abigail's gift of food and made peace with her and with Nabal's house)

³⁶ And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

³⁷ But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. (Possibly a stroke, or some sort of paralysis)

³⁸ And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died. (God judged Nabal and ended him)

³⁹ And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife. (David thanked God for saving him from doing evil, and proposed marriage to Abigail)

⁴⁰ And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. (He sent his men to propose for him)

⁴¹ And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord. (She is willing to take the most menial job for David)

⁴² And Abigail hasted, and arose and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.

⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives. (This Jezreel was most likely in Judah) see Joshua-15:56

⁴⁴ But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim. (This won't stand after Saul dies)