

Abigail

1 Samuel 25:2-3 [NIV] *“A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was Nabal and his wife’s name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.”*

Abigail was beautiful and far more suited to manage Nabal’s wealth than he was.

But Nabal was like too many men, he took his wife for granted, not acknowledging her character and wisdom.

The loyalty of Nabal’s household to surly and mean man that he was, must have been inspired by Abigail.

Although Nabal placed a low value on her, Abigail made the most of her skills and opportunities.

Some men do not deserve the wife they have been blessed with. Nabal [the name means “*stupid*”] was such a man.

Abigail in contrast had a name that means “*source of joy*”, which she really was.

Nabal rudely refused King David’s request to feed his men who had been guarding his shepherds from attack.

Nabal was very rich and could easily afford to meet David’s request.

When Abigail heard of her husband’s insult, on her own initiative took gifts of food and wine and waylaid David as he travelled to take revenge on Nabal because of his rude rejection of David’s just request. [**1 Samuel 25:4-22**]

David was in no mood to listen as he drew near to Nabal’s home.

Something about Abigail caused David to stop and hear what she had to say. [**1 Samuel 25:23-31**]

The very humble and respectful words and approach of Abigail must have had a great impact on David.

David suddenly realised what he was about to do was very sinful. He would have been guilty of taking vengeance which was only God’s prerogative, for only God knows all motives and thoughts of any person. [**Psalms 139:1-16; Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30**]

1 Samuel 25:32-35 [NIV] *“David said to Abigail, ‘Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.’ Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought to him and said, ‘Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.’”*

No matter how right we think we are, we always need to be careful to stop and listen to others who are not emotionally involved in our actions, as David did to Abigail.

1 Samuel 25:36-38 [NIV] *“When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. Then in*

the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.”

Because Nabal was drunk, wisely Abigail waited to tell her husband what she had done until the next day.

Nabal’s fate could be interpreted as a stroke, possibly brought on by a fit of temper, knowing his character.

1 Samuel 25:39-42 [NIV] *“When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, ‘Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal’s wrongdoing down on his own head.’ Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, ‘David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife.’ She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, ‘Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master’s servants.’ Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David’s messengers and became his wife.”*

The one, but short, encounter that David had with Abigail convinced him of her wisdom and real humility, the great characteristics that made her a very desirable wife.

David did not delay in making Abigail his wife after the violent death of Nabal.

When we read of the future decisions that David made we can see the humble wisdom of Abigail showing through.

Abigail was an effective counsellor to both of the men in her life, working hard to prevent them making rash moves.

In her wisdom Abigail saw the whole picture and left plenty of room for God to get involved with each situation.

We have to ask ourselves, do we, like Abigail, see beyond the present crisis in today’s world to see what God is planning and will bring to fruition in the future with the return of Jesus Christ?

Do we use our knowledge and skills to promote peace in our community and fellowship?

Are we loyal to others as Abigail was, without being blind to the circumstances?

Life’s tough decisions can bring out the best in others if we apply the wisdom found in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Every situation in life needs to be put under God’s control by our humble and loyal submission to God’s Word and His Holy Spirit.

With Abigail’s attitude of mind we do not have to be a person with a prestigious title to play a significant role in bringing peace and reconciliation in our own community and fellowship.

With this marriage to Abigail, David secured a new social position and a rich estate.

With Ahinoam, the Jezreelite, Abigail shared David’s life at Gath.

Abigail and Ahinoam were captured by the Amalekites near Ziklag and then rescued by David. [**1 Samuel 30:1-19**]

Abigail was the mother of Kileab. [**2 Samuel 3:3**] or Daniel [**1 Chronicles 3:1**]. Both refer to the same man.

Although older than Absalom no more is recorded of Kileab, suggesting that he died young.