

I. Introduction.

II. Two wrongs don't make a right. v. 2-13

A. Introducing Nabal and his wife. v. 2-3,17,25

1. Nabal is harsh, evil, and foolish. v. 3b,17,21,25 Ps. 14:1 Isa. 32:6 Luke 12:15-21
2. Abigail is a woman of exceptional beauty and wisdom. v. 3a 16:12 Pr. 3:4 11:22

B. David politely requests provisions from Nabal. v. 4-8

1. The time of sheep shearing was a time for festivity and generosity. v. 2b,4,8,36 Dt. 14:28ff 26:10ff Neh. 8:10-12
2. David is no ordinary visitor – He is the Lord's anointed. Heb. 13:2 Gen. 18:1ff

C. Nabal rudely refuses David's request – the first wrong. v. 9-11

1. He belittles and insults David. v. 10,30 22:9 Gen. 12:3 Ps. 2:12
2. He refuses to return good for the good he received. v. 11 Ro. 12:17
3. Nabal's rudeness is exceptionally foolish – He curses the LORD's anointed.

D. David prepares to take vengeance on Nabal – the second wrong. v. 13,21-22,33 22:16 14:24 24:17 Pr. 17:13 25:28 Rom. 12:17ff

III. Abigail rescues her family from death and David from sin. v. 14-31

A. Abigail learns what Nabal has done and hurriedly prepares to meet and propitiate David. v. 14-22 Gen. 32:6ff 33:11f

B. Abigail appeals to David – a masterpiece of female wisdom and charm. v. 23-31

1. She approaches David humbly and respectfully. v. 23,24b
2. "Blame me" – She takes her husband's guilt upon herself. v. 24a Gen. 2:24
3. "My husband is a worthless fool." v. 25 26:21
4. "The LORD has restrained you, thus far, from shedding blood." v. 26a
5. "Please receive my propitiatory gift and forgive." v. 27-28a Gen. 50:17 Ps. 32:1,5
6. "The LORD will exalt, protect, and avenge you." v. 28b-30 2:10 23:25,28,17 24:20
7. "Don't taint your reign by wickedly avenging yourself." v. 31a 19:5 Dt. 32:35
8. "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." v. 31 Ge. 40:14 Lu. 23:42f

IV. The LORD orchestrates a just and glorious outcome – a funeral and a wedding. v. 32-44

A. David heeds Abigail's wise words. v. 32-35

1. Unlike Nabal, David listens to wise counsel. v. 32-34,35b,17 v. 33-34
2. He receives her propitiatory gift and sends her away in peace. v. 35,6
3. David repents of his foolish vow. v. 22 Judges 11:29ff Mt. 14:7-9

B. The LORD vindicates David by killing Nabal. v. 36-39 Pr. 20:22 26:9 30:21-22

1. The LORD strikes Nabal dead. v. 37-38 Luke 12:16-20 Acts 12:22ff Ps. 2:10ff
2. David recognizes that vengeance belongs the LORD. v. 39 24:15 26:10 Ro. 12:19

C. Nabal's loss is David's gain – Abigail becomes David's wife. v. 39b-44 I Co. 7:39 Ge. 24:55-58 II Sa. 3:2 Deut. 17:17 Mt. 19:1ff

## V. Application.

- A. Abigail is a model of how to confront someone (even a person in authority) about their sin. Gal. 6:1-2 Pr. 15:15 28:23
1. She goes respectfully and gently, seeking permission to be heard. v. 23-24
  2. She turns David away from his sin. Mt. 18:15 James 5:19-20
  3. She puts David's focus back on the Lord's character and promises. v. 26-31
- B. The Bible commends strong women. v. 41 I Sa. 1-2 Ruth 1-4 Lu. 1:26ff
1. God may use a woman to reprove a man. Mt. 18:15
  2. Was Abigail wrong to go behind her husband's back? v. 19,37 Acts 5:29
  3. How can Abigail's example instruct a woman who is married to a foolish man? 1 Co. 7:12-16
- C. How do you respond to correction? Pr. 17:10 9:8 19:25 25:12,28 15:31-32 Heb. 3:13
1. Are you like Nabal, who won't listen? v. 17 Prov. 15:12 9:8
  2. David repents when he is rebuked and blesses God for sending Abigail.
  3. Give thanks to God for how He restrains you from evil. v. 26,34,39  
I Co. 10:12-13 Mt. 6:13 Pr. 31:1ff
- D. You can trust God to bring justice to the wicked. v. 38 Rom. 12:19

## VI. Concluding applications.

- A. Where do we see Christ in this passage?
1. Like David, Jesus sends his servants offering His peace. v. 5-6 Mt. 10:9-15
  2. Like David, Jesus did not take personal vengeance on His enemies. I Pe. 2:21ff  
Lu. 23:34 Mt. 26:53
  3. Like Abigail, Jesus took our blame and propitiated God's wrath against us. v. 24  
II Co. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 Isa. 53:4-6
  4. Abigail, a person of importance, is prepared to humbly wash feet. v. 41 Jo. 13:1ff
  5. The dying thief, like Abigail, believed God's Anointed One would soon reign and asked to be remembered in His Kingdom. v. 30,31b Luke 23:42-43
  6. You, like Abigail, are invited to be the bride of Christ. v. 39b
  7. Are you ready for the bridegroom to come? v. 42 Mt. 25:1-10
- B. What is your response to the Lord's Anointed? Ps. 14:1
1. You can be very successful in an earthly sense and still be a fool. v. 2-3,17,25
  2. We all were once like Nabal – foolish, proud, and independent. Titus 3:3
  3. God had mercy on us by forgiving and transforming us. Titus 3:4-8
  4. Be like Abigail who recognized and honored the Lord's anointed. Ps. 2:12

## Questions

1. Was David carrying on a protection racket?
2. What can you learn from Abigail about how to correct someone in authority over you?
3. Are you the kind of person who receives correction well? Or do you get defensive?
4. Can you think of times in which the LORD has providentially restrained you from sin?
5. Which of the characteristics of a fool, in Proverbs, are seen in Nabal?
6. Which of the characteristics of a wise woman, in Proverbs 31, are seen in Abigail?
7. When should a wife, like Abigail, take matters into her own hands, even if it means going against her husband's wishes?
8. Where in this passage do you see Christ?