

Theme: A woman's (or a man's) power and honor are not necessarily tied to a position or title – but rather, to speaking the truth with humility, knowledge and discretion. It is this that accomplishes the purposes of God.

Background: Moving from an overview of a woman's role in the church and society to a specific example. Abigail gives a picture of decisive action and wise counsel in a delicate and dangerous situation.

Introduction: Abigail – average, every day, ordinary woman.

I. Courting Disaster

A. Nabal's folly

1. Nabal's protector
 - a. David in the region of Carmel
 - b. Keeping Nabal's "assets" safe (7)
2. David's modest request (8)
3. Nabal's foolish insult (10, 11)

B. David's folly

1. He responds in kind!
2. With 400 armed men (21-22)

TRANSITION: While word goes to David – it also goes to Abigail

II. Decisive Character

A. Abigail's quick action!

1. She is informed
 - a. Of David's protection (14-17)
 - b. Of Nabal's action
2. Grasping the situation
 - a. Threat of immediate danger
 - b. Threat of future trial
3. She "makes haste" - Want peace? Don't wait till the enemy is at the door. (Luke 14:32)
 - a. A generous gift is prepared
 - b. A plan is laid - Sends the gift in front of her (Jacob/Esau? Genesis 32)

B. Without permission

1. To protect her husband and her household
2. Acting lawfully to protect life (6th Commandment)
3. In God's providence, they meet

III. Disarming Diplomacy

A. Abigail's position – one of humility

1. Physically – face to the ground (23)
 - a. Contrast with Nabal
 - b. "Hear the words of your servant" (24)
2. Spiritually – takes the blame!
(NOTE: Abigail pictures the heart of the Gospel.)
 - a. Lay the guilt on me (24)
 - 1) Husband was foolish
 - 2) I should have seen guests
 - 3) So others won't suffer destruction

b. Forgive the trespass of your servant (28)

c. Don't shed this blood (26)

- He spared Saul (Chapter 24)

B. Her present

1. David had asked for "whatever you have at hand"

2. A "gift" not a "payoff"

C. Her petition

1. The promise of God to David (28, 29)

a. The Lord will build his house

b. You are fighting the battles of the Lord

c. "Evil shall not be found in you"

d. The Lord will keep you safe (The bundle)

e. Appointed prince over Israel

2. Give no cause for regret!

- How will you be known and remembered?

3. Remember me

a. Not as one you destroyed out of vengeance

b. But as one who served you and received mercy

IV. David's Praise

A. He is blessed

B. He gives blessing: Blesses Abigail – go in peace

V. Conclusion/Application

A. Our "title" doesn't exemplify or exalt Christ – our character does.

B. Your sex doesn't limit your ability to exhibit and express the truth.