

Lessons from Nabal and Abigail

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➤ Intro:

- **Nabal** was a rich man whose business was in **Carmel**
 - **he was harsh and evil** in his dealings
 - **his wife, Abigail, was intelligent and beautiful** in appearance

➤ - **map Carmel: 10 miles south-south-east from Hebron**

- **Saul has set up a monument** for himself here in Carmel (1 Sam. 15:12)
- **it was a place where all the residents would have known** about all the major events of Saul and Israel, including **David**

- lessons from Nabal and Abigail

➤ **A harsh attitude toward people isn't profitable**

- **Nabal:**

- **name means "fool"**, some believe it was a nickname reflecting his foolishness, not a proper name
- **1 Sam. 25:14-17** Nabal's servants report to Abigail what happened, refer to Nabal as a **"worthless man that no one can speak to him"** (vs. 17)

- **today: people think it's cool to be like Nabal**

- **popular** to be harsh toward people – masculine, authoritarian
 - **illus.: Jerry Springer, and other such shows**
 - **illus.: talk radio**
- **not the way godly people act**
- **not profitable when dealing with people, especially in the long run**

➤ - **Pr. 15:1, 4, 18, 26, 28, 33** gentle, soothing, slow to anger – **profitable, best way to act**

- **vs. 1** harsh word stirs up anger (**Nabal, David**), gentle answers turns away wrath
- **vs. 4** soothing tongue is like a tree of life (**Abigail**), but perversion in it crushes the spirit
- **vs. 18** hot-tempered man stirs up strife (**Nabal, David**), but the slow to anger calms a dispute (**Abigail**)
- **vs. 26** evil plans are an abomination to the Lord (**Nabal**), but pleasant words are pure (**Abigail**)
- **vs. 28** heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil (**Nabal**)
- **vs. 33** the fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility (**Nabal's problem**)

➤ - **Christians aren't harsh toward others**

- **1 Cor. 13:4-8a** "Love is **patient**, love is **kind** and is **not jealous**; love **does not brag** and is **not arrogant**, does **not act unbecomingly**; it does **not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, does **not take into account a wrong suffered**, does **not rejoice in unrighteousness**, but **rejoices with the truth**; **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. . . ."**

- **Just people give others their due – give them what is right**
 - **David and his men had protected Nabal's men and possessions**, so Nabal should have shared the fruits of his wealth with David, having profited from his services
 - **1 Sam. 25:28b David was fighting the battles of the Lord**
 - **if it were not for David, highly probably that Nabal would have lost a great deal** of his wealth to Philistines who were plundering threshing floors
 - at the least, Nabal owe David a share of his profits, since he had profited from David's protection
 - **David asked for very little**, just for whatever he had on hand to feed them
 - it was a festive time, celebrating the profits from shearing the sheep
 - David didn't ask for a share of the profits, just a some provisions at festival time
 - **illus.: a farmer owns 10k acres**
 - **he sends his men out to farm, and gladly accepts his neighbors help** in keeping them safe from robbers who've been destroying farm equipment, burning down crops, and killing workers
 - **after the harvest, the farmer throws a big party** for all his workers and their family
 - **after the party has been going a while, the neighbors** who had risked their lives to protect him show up
 - **the farmer gets mad, calls the cops**, and has them all arrested for trespassing
 - **but this was the least he owed them**
 - **he would have been financially ruined without them**, but now he is rich
 - **the farmer wasn't fair and equitable** to his neighbors – he wasn't a good neighbor
 - **the farmer gladly took from his neighbors, but didn't give back** because of greed
- - **Tit. 1:8a just**, qualification of elder, Christian above reproach
 - **just person**: one who judges accurately, and gives to each one what is due him
- - **Rom. 13:8, 9b-10 owe no one anything but love**, love neighbor as love self, do not wrong to a neighbor
 - **good neighbor is just**, renders to people their due
 - **good neighbor doesn't take from people** and not give back
- **illus.: the Nike Swoosh logo**
 - **designed in 1971 by Carol Davidson for \$35.00**
 - **today, Davidson would make millions** for designing the logo, but she designed it when the company was just getting started
 - **12 years later, in 1983, Phil Knight gave Davidson a gold Swoosh ring and an envelope filled with Nike stock** to express his gratitude
 - **although not specified, the tone of Knight's voice implies** that the stock made Davidson rather wealthy
 - **Phil Knight didn't have to give Carol Davidson stock**, perhaps worth millions, but it was the right thing to do – **just, good neighbor, only a greedy harsh man would have done otherwise – just do it**
- - **1 Sam. 25:18-22 Abigail did what was right, even though her husband refused to**
 - **shameful is a man who puts his wife in a position to save the family from annihilation**
- - **1 Sam. 25:36-38 Nabal's heart becomes like stone when Abigail tells him what happened**
 - probably now realizing what he'd done, that he would have been dead if it were not for his wife, and for putting his family in such a condition by his behavior
- **justness is giving people what they're due – giving them what is right**

➤ **God repays evil** – Christians aren't vengeful

- **1 Sam. 25:38-39a** Lord returned Nabal's evildoing to him – repaid him, punished him with death

➤ - **God repays evil:** do bad things, and bad things will happen to you

- **Pr. 15:25, 26, 27, 29** Lord tears down house, abomination, trouble, Lord far from the wicked

- **saying:** what comes around goes around – Lord makes sure this happens

➤ - **Job 4:8-9** those who plow iniquity and sow trouble harvest it, perish by the breath of God

- Eliphaz improperly applied to Job

➤ - **Gal. 6:7-8** do not be deceived, God is not mocked, whatever a man sows this he will also reap

- the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption

- the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life

➤ - **Christians don't avenge themselves**, like people in the world

- **illus: revenge is popular in the world**

- **websites** dedicated to helping people take revenge on others

- **illus.: cute story about despondent woman walking on the beach, finds a bottle and a genie pops out**

- "What's wrong?" the genie asks.

- "My husband's been mean to me!" she sighs

- "Then I'll give you three wishes to make you feel better! But the rule is that your husband gets double of whatever you wish for."

- "Okay," the woman begrudgingly frowns.

- "Then what's your first wish?"

- **The woman asks for** a million dollars, imaging her husband getting two million dollars, then asks for a new red Lamborghini, imaging her husbands surprise when he gets two of the cars

- "Just one more wish!" the genie exclaims.

- **Sorry she had lavished her husband** with such extravagant gifts, an **idea pops in her head** as she smiles and says, "For my last wish – I want you to scare me half to death!"

- **Christians aren't like people in the world** – not vengeful

- **Rom. 12:17-21** peace with all men, not take own revenge, God will repay, fight evil with good

➤ - **Rev. 6:10; 19:2** God avenges the blood of the saints - punished Rome, persecution of the satins

- **2 Th. 1:6-9**

- **God repays evil, and our faith in God gives us the ability to entrust vengeance to Him**

➤ **Godly men and women are attracted to each other**

- **1 Sam. 25:39b-42** David's and Abigail's dealings with each other resulted in love and marriage

- godly man and godly woman fell in love with each other, married, had a family

- godliness attracts

- **David:** godly man fighting the Lord's battles, even when wrongfully pursued by a king who wanted to kill him

- **Abigail:** strong, humble, meek, godly woman even when married to an evil man

- **Pr. 19:14** "House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord."

- **Pr. 31:10** "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels."

- advise to the unmarried wanting to marry one day

- godly people are looking for godly spouses

- if we want to marry a strong Christian, be the strongest Christian you can be today

Summary / Inv.

- review: PP

- the best life you can have is being a Christian

- inv.