

# Abigail and Nabal

1 Samuel 25

## 1 Sam 25:1

Samuel died at 98.

In ministry 16-20 years before Saul.

**House in Ramah:** house/sepulchre purchased for burial.

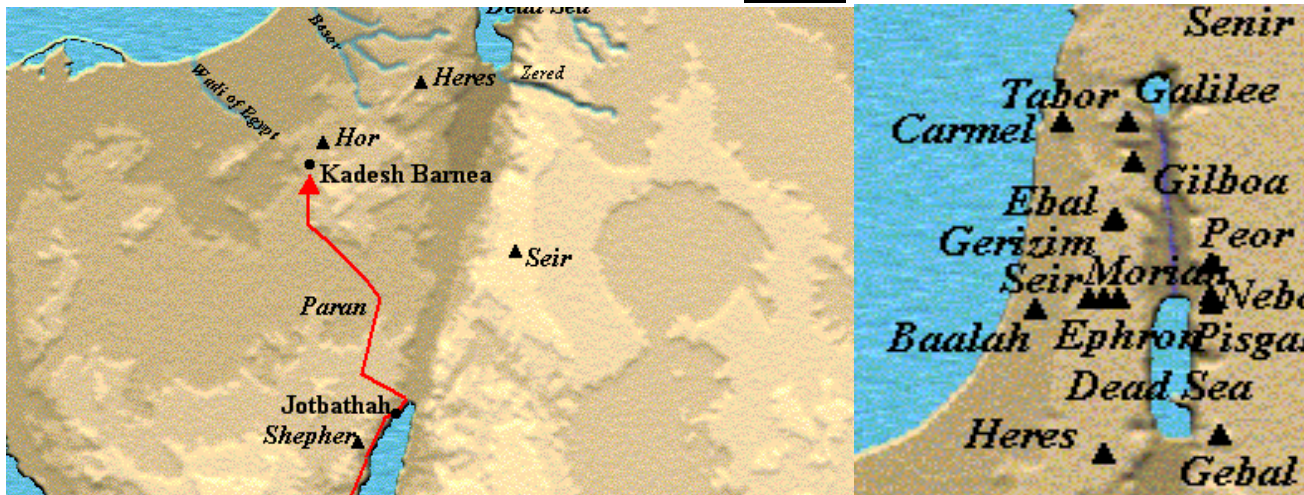
A house for the dead.

Samuel's death--no longer a restraining influence on nation

All Israel gathers together to mourn death-- David, most likely, attended.

Careful not close to Saul

Wilderness of Paran--between mountains of Judah and Mount Sinai.



Shepherding huge industry.

Someone outside city in fields--shepherd.

Common for shepherders and shearers attacked by wild tribes.

Customary for large landowners to hire men to protect properties.

David and men behind scenes fighting wild tribes.

Custom--landowners lay aside portions to payoff or tip these protectors

Nabal --self-centered, egotistical and stingy man who won't pay up.

## 1 Sam 25:2-3

**The man was very great.** heavy—lots of money.

When say “he is a great man” what mean?

- Great in Possessions
- Great in Doing
- Great in Ideas
- Great in Character

Nabal fits first category

**Nabal**—Foolish, stupid, vile, base, villainous.

- **Churlish**: harsh, hard, stubborn, belligerent, cruel, grievous, hard-hearted, impudent, obstinate, vulgar.
- **Evil in his doings**—Dishonest, deceptive, unfair
- **Of the house of Caleb**. From same tribe as David.

**Clark**: *But as the word signifies a dog, ...implying a man of a canine disposition, .... he was a doggish man...*

**Jamiesson**... he was snappish as a dog.

**Mt Hen**: *Riches make men look great in the eye of the world; but to one that takes right views, Nabal looked very mean. He had no honour or honesty; he was churlish, cross, and ill-humored; evil in his doings, hard and oppressive; a man that cared not what fraud and violence he used in getting and saving. What little reason have we to value the wealth of this world, when so great a churl as Nabal abounds, and so good a man as David suffers want!*

### 1 Sam 25:3

**Abigail...Good understanding**: Discerning, able to make present decisions based on future consequences.

Evaluate impact of words before speaking.

A person with understanding:

- Seeks Wise counsel: Prov 1:5
- Has a personal relationship with God Prov 9:10
- Is able to control his temper Prov 11:12
- Won't follow vain persons Prov 12:11
- Is slow to wrath Prov 14:29
- Has a heart that seeks knowledge Prov 15:14
- Walks uprightly Prov 15:21
- Won't make unwise contracts Prov 17:18
- Has an excellent spirit Prov 17:27
- Doesn't speak before thinking it through Prov 17:28
- Will not oppress people Prov 28:16

**Beautiful**: comely, fair, goodly, pleasant, well.

**Countenance**: Facial features,

### 1 Sam 25:4

David responsible for feeding and managing the affairs of at least 600 mighty men.

Protected Nabal's sheep and property.

Customary for men who protected sheep to expect payment from landowner.

Time of shearing--time of celebration.

### 1 Sam 25:5-6

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A customary greeting to friend.

1 Sam 25:7-8

We have protected your men and flocks. You know the custom, sir. Since we have been guarding your stock you need to take care of our needs. At least feed us! ...Let yourself be a blessing to my young men. We are here on a good day for you. It is a time of celebration and festivities and eating. If you can spare something for my men please give to them and to myself.

**1 Sam 25:9-10**

*I don't know anything about David. Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are a lot of servants these days that run away from their masters.*

**1 Sam 25:11**

*Should I take bread and water... and give to band of outlaws who come from who knows where?*

**1 Sam 25:12**

Nabal implying David and men trying to rip him off...he only feeds men who work for a living.

**1 Sam 25:13**

*Get your swords, men!*

2/3 of his men—400 warriors.

*Alan Redpath: David! David! What is wrong with you? Why, one of the most wonderful things we have learned about you recently is your patience with Saul. You learned to wait upon the Lord, you refused to lift your hand to touch the lord's anointed, although he had been your enemy for so many years. But now, look at you! Your self-restraint has gone to pieces and a few insulting words from a fool of a man like Nabal has made you see red! David, what's the matter?*

*"I am justified in doing this," David would reply. "There is no reason why Nabal should treat me as he has. He has repaid all my kindness with insults. I will show him he can't trifle with me. It is one thing to take it from Saul, who is my superior at this point, but this sort of man—this highhanded individual must be taught a lesson." P. 107*

**1 Sam 25:14**

Why came to Abigail and not husband?

Maybe she approachable

**And he railed on them:** express objections or criticisms in bitter, harsh, or abusive language.

**1 Sam 25:15-17**

**Son of Belial:** worthless, base

**Powell:** *This is the story of an astute and courageous woman who was unfortunately married to a foolish man. Abigail probably had no part in arranging her wedding; in those days marriages were negotiated by*

*parents. She and her husband were extremely different in that he was arrogant, selfish, and foolish, while she was friendly, intelligent, and resourceful.*

She has lived for years with this man who has an anger problem.

She is extremely ashamed of him and embarrassed

### **1 Sam 25:18-19**

Sometimes it is vital that a wife goes to bat for husband.

Sometimes she needs to stick up for him without saying a word.

*FB Meyer: God-fearing women, tender and gentle in their sensibilities, high-minded and noble in their ideals, become tied in an indissoluble union with men for whom they can have no true affinity.*

### **Why do outstanding Young Ladies Marry Jerks?**

- Popularity
- Money
- Appearance
- Dysfunctional Past
- Emotional Tie
- Physical Involvement
- Arrangement

### **1 Sam 25:20**

David coming down Mount Paran;

Abigail coming down from Carmel

### **1 Sam 25:21-22**

***Pisseth against the wall.*** ... proverbial expression among the Israelites; and may with the utmost propriety be read "any male." Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge.

### **1 Sam 25:23-25**

Talk about really knowing her husband.

She had him pegged

***Regard this man of Belial:*** Unprofitable, worthless; wicked evil, naughty, ungodly. Look at with intelligence this evil and worthless man.

***Folly is with him:*** foolishness, wickedness; a crime; punishment:--folly, vile, villainy.

***Handmaid:*** bondslave, servant--7 times.

***My lord:*** 11 times

### **1 Sam 25:26-28**

Sir, you're next king of Israel.

Don't ruin your integrity by murdering a man.

**1 Sam 25:29** He will cast them off from himself as a stone is cast out from a sling.

1 Sam 25

### 1 Sam 25:30-31

If kill my husband--live with this deed the rest of life.

***but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.***

She shows creativity.

### 1 Sam 25:32

**Swindoll:** *What a guy! Is it any wonder God chose David as a man after His own heart? What a teachable spirit. He's got a sword ready to be unsheathed, and yet he looks at this woman he's never met before and he listens to her without interrupting...and he changes his entire demeanor. Talk about a man after God's heart. That's one of the reasons. He was willing to change. (Furthermore, how can any hungry guy get mad at a woman with a crackpot full of hot, delicious chow?). May God forever keep us flexible and teachable? Someone has a word in season for a blind spot in our lives, and we're nothing more than dummies if we ignore him. David models genuine humility here. 104*

### 1 Sam 25:33

**Jamieson:** *Transported by passion and blinded by revenge, he was on the eve of perpetrating a great injury. Doubtless, the timely appearance and prudent address of Abigail were greatly instrumental in changing his purpose. At all events, it was the means of opening his eyes to the moral character of the course on which he had been impetuously rushing; and in accepting her present, he speaks with lively satisfaction as well as gratitude to Abigail, for having relieved him from bloodshed.*

### 1 Sam 25:34-35

Saved husband's life and gained credibility from next king of Israel!

### 1 Sam 25:36-37

Drunk!

**Clark:** *He was thunderstruck, and was so terrified at the apprehension of what he had escaped, that the fear overcame his mind, he became insensible to all things around him, probably refused all kinds of nourishment, and died in ten days.*

### 1 Sam 25:38-39

***... and hath kept his servant from evil.*** The Lord has paid Nabal back  
***And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.***

### 1 Sam 25:40-42

By marriage with Abigail, David became landowner of Nabal's property

**1 Sam 25:43** ***David also took Ahinoam (Achiyno'am, akh-ee-no'-am) of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives.***

**Of Jezreel**—There were two places of this name; one in the tribe of Issachar, the other in the tribe of Judah.

**1 Sam 25:44**

**Observations on Abigail**

1. Her Actions Were Good
2. Her Speech Was Better
3. Her Perspective Was Best of All
4. Her Attitude was one of Frustration.

**Observations concerning David:**

1. Think before you act.
2. Don't become emotionally attached to your critics.
3. A true friend will at times be an intercessor. (Jonathan, Abigail)
4. Be willing to humble yourself (Abigail...)
5. Show appreciation to those who protect you. David married her.

Polygamy

1. It was lawful during his day.
2. Specific commands for monogamy (one spouse) and against polygamy (multiple wives) were issued in the Word of God

**Deu 17:16-17 Gen 2:24 Mal 2:15-16 Mark 10:11-12**

In every case of polygamy in OT the consequences of man's sins were visited down to his future generations.