

Abigail

1 Samuel 25:1-41

Based on NLT

Introduction

God had promised David that he would one day be king of his people. However, David was not yet king, and the current king was chasing him all over the countryside. Several times David had an opportunity to kill him, but he refused, because he refused to harm the king of God's people.

1 Samuel 25:1-3

Then David moved *to another area*. There was a wealthy man *who owned thousands of sheep and goats*. His wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But *the man...was crude and mean in all his dealings*.

1 Samuel 25:4-13

It was sheep-shearing time, and when David heard that *the man* was shearing his sheep, he sent *some messengers...* "Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own!...While your shepherds stayed among us...we never harmed them...So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David."

"Who is this fellow David?" *the man* sneered to the *messengers*. "Who does *he* think he is?..."

So David's young men *reported back*. "Get your swords!" was David's reply as he strapped on his own. Then 400 men started off with David...

1 Samuel 25:14-22

Meanwhile, one of *the man's* servants went to Abigail and told her *what had happened*.

Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread *and many other supplies and rushed down to where David was...*

As she was riding her donkey...she saw David and his men coming toward her. *David was vowing to his men that he would kill every man in the household.*

1 Samuel 25:23-31

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. She fell at his feet and said, "I accept all blame in this matter, my lord...*My husband* is a fool...Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. *God* will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, *because* you are fighting *God's* battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life...When *God* has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, don't let this be a blemish on your record. Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when *God* has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!"

1 Samuel 25:32-35

David replied to Abigail, "Praise...God, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands...Then David accepted her present and told her, "Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband."

1 Samuel 25:36-38

When Abigail arrived home, she found that *her husband* was throwing a big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her

meeting with David until dawn the next day. In the morning when *he* was sober, his wife told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and *soon died*.

1 Samuel 25:39-41

When David heard that *Abigail's husband* was dead, he said, "Praise *God*, who has avenged the insult I received from *this man* and has kept me from doing it myself. *He* has received the punishment for his sin." Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife...She bowed low to the ground and responded, "I, your servant, would be happy to marry David. I would even be willing to become a slave..."

- Compare Abigail's character to her husband's.
- Compare Abigail's actions to David's.
- How did Abigail help her husband?
- How did Abigail help David?
- What did she do that showed that she was in tune with God, or at least a wise woman? How did other people (David, her husband, her servants) respond to her? How did she speak to them?
- Describe her character and her values.
- How do you speak to your husband when he makes a mistake? Think of a time when you responded well, and then a time when you didn't. What was the difference?
- How have you been helping your husband, especially when he makes mistakes?
- How do you think Abigail became the way she was? Pray and ask God how you can have the same character as she did.