

1 Samuel 25:1-44

The LORD Has Avenged

Do you look to God for your provisions in life?

Do you get mad, want to get even, and get revenge?

Do you listen to godly counsel?

Do you calm others and solve problems, or do you escalate situations and problems?

Do you trust God?

Vs 1- God used Samuel greatly in his life of service to the LORD. God uses people to point to Himself.

All Israel mourned Samuel.

When you die, will people mourn for you because they love you and because of the impact you made on them spiritually?

Vs 2-13 Nabel and Abigail were rich. They lived in a region where David and his men would be.

David was wise and thoughtful and showed character in how he approached Nabel.

David wanted, and needed, provision for his men. David had helped protect and defeat Israel's enemies. Now David needed some help.

Nabel was harsh and badly behaved. **We all have a reputation. What is yours? What do other believers think of you? What do your family and friends think of you? What do the lost think of you? Where do you need to grow?**

Sheep shearing comes after the spring, the animals are thriving; people take their stock, or money, from the sheer and they feast, drink, and settle old scores.

There are four examples of sheep shearing in the OT. In these examples, we see people getting even.

The good do good, and the evil do evil was written seven (7) times in this chapter. Abigail was good, beautiful, and smart. Nabal was evil, ugly, and rose up against God and God's man (foolish and unwise).

Abigail means joy. Nabel means fool.

Nabel uses the terms "I" and "my" 7 times in his rebuttal against giving David's men something as simple as food and water.

It would make sense that Nabel might say no. He might not want to share food and provision with these other men. Saying no would not be hospitable. Saying no would not reciprocate what David had done, but it would make sense.

Nabel was mean, rude, and offensive.

David was not asking for much. They only needed some bread and water. Just the essentials.

David's response to this offensive lack of hospitality and insult is a desire to fight.

David had just humbled himself before Saul, and that had helped Saul not seek vengeance.

Now, David was about to have a person of character help him to not seek vengeance.

Vs 14-23 Nabal was mocking David for his men not being loyal, and yet one of his own men went to his wife.

Abigail was beautiful inside and out. She was smart, shrewd, and humble.

Nabal's man gave testimony of what David's men had shared. They were good to Nabal's men.

This man liked and respected the men of David for their character, and he feared David's vengeance.

Abigail made provision, and provided more than David asked. She also went quickly and respectfully.

Nabal and Abigail had the ability to provide this request. They had food.

Do we have a heart to love others and share our stuff?

Luke 11:42 *"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."*

Matthew 22:36 *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

David wants to kill Nabal and his men. Abigail shows character and humility, and it changes David's heart.

Do you show hospitality and love?

Proverbs 15:1 *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Vs 28- David is fighting for God, and this revenge is not for God!

God blesses us, and we are to be a blessing to others.

Vs 32-43 David is thankful that Abigail directed his heart toward God and toward doing right, instead of toward himself and doing wrong.

God used David to impact Saul to do the right thing. God used Abigail to help David do the right thing. God uses us in each other's lives to live for Him.

It is ironic that Nabal is holding a feast, but he is reluctant to share food with others.

It is difficult to tell if Nabal was so angry that he had a stroke, or if God judged Nabal for going against His anointed. In either case, God's man received provision and the enemy of God received judgment.

We must always listen to godly counsel and seek the LORD. We must never go against the LORD!

Abigail was married to a bad man and she still showed great character. God blessed her. Abigail married David. She was a woman of character and David was a man of character, and they came together as husband and wife.

Polygamy does exist in the Bible, but God does not encourage polygamy.

What godly counsel do you need to listen to now? What do you need to ask God to help you with? Where do you need to trust God to be your avenger? Where do you need to be hospitable?