

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

April 10

MONDAY

Abigail sprang into action! Without telling Nabal, she prepared quite a lot of supplies, packed them on donkeys, and rode out to find David. She did not have to go far before David and his men met her.

READ: I Samuel 25:18-20

Abigail demonstrates wisdom in some very practical ways: she acts quickly, when to delay could have spelled disaster; she was wise in not telling her husband, for she knew his life was on the line here and that he was too arrogant to even know that; she was wise in that she was personally involved instead of delegating everything to the hired help; and she was wise in going out to seek David and set right a wrong. Wrongs do not fix themselves. Wronged ones do not always find us. Time alone does not heal all wounds. She set out with a mission: to fix what was wrong. And she did it wisely. Isn't that just what we need to do at times?

TUESDAY

David rued the kindnesses his men and he had shown to Nabal for he had returned only evil for good. So David determined to kill Nabal. When Abigail met David, she more or less threw herself at his feet and begged for a chance to explain things to him.

READ: I Samuel 25:21-24

Abigail submits herself to David in a most obliging fashion. She put herself into the place of one who was repentant and one who was pleading, and asks only to be heard. She was atoning for Nabal's faults: he had denied David the supplies, and she now supplies them; he had spoken harshly and provokingly towards David and she now speaks gently, with great humility, yielding herself. Yielding pacifies great offenses, and a gentle answer often makes a difference.

WEDNESDAY

Abigail admits up front that her husband had been foolish, but quickly adds that she did not know of all that was happening, implying that if she had, things would have been different. She speaks of God as the true Avenger and points out that she has brought the supplies which David had requested for his men.

READ: I Samuel 25:25-28

Check out verse 26: The Lord has withholden thee from coming to shed blood. Abigail says that God prevented David from killing Nabal and the other men around him. Evidently, David could have arrived sooner or begun the killing before Abigail met him. But God arranged it otherwise. Now let thine enemies... be as Nabal. Abigail exhorts David to allow God, rather than his own sword, to avenge evil against him, whether from Nabal or from other enemies.

THURSDAY

Abigail speaks, without actually naming the king, of Saul's pursuit of David. But, she adds, David's life was well-cared for - in God's keeping. His enemies are like stones placed into a sling, and waiting to be slung! And when you become king, she concludes, you will not look back with regret on what transpired here today.

READ: I Samuel 25:29-31

Abigail assured David that his soul shall be bound in the bundle of life with the Lord. Things which are precious to us are bundled up and held in our arms. Sometimes we might call a baby, a "bundle of joy". These words speak of being valued and treasured by God, and of being protected by Him. The idea that his very soul is treasured and protected has made these words a common inscription on tombstones for Jews for generations. Isn't the imagery terrific! Bundled up in the arms of God! That's where we find ourselves today!

FRIDAY

David thanks God for sending Abigail to him at this moment. He blesses her for her advice, and readily admits that God has used her to stop him from what he had set out to do. David accepts the supplies from her and sent her home.

READ: I Samuel 25:32-35

David is the one who, in Psalm 141:5, wrote these words: Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness. It is an admonition which he follows well here. Not only did he take Abigail's admonition, but he took it thankfully! Abigail is undoubtedly thankful that the Lord has spared the lives of her husband and his men, but it is David's thankfulness we read of here. God has spared him from a grievous sin to which he had, in his anger, been blind. How often God would open our eyes and direct our path through the ministry of other believers. How often He would be pleased to use us in that very ministry!

SATURDAY

Abigail goes home to find Nabal throwing an extravagant party. He is so drunk that Abigail waits until the morning to report to him concerning all that had happened. Hearing it, Nabal's heart died within him and he became as a stone. That sounds like paralysis and ten days later, he dies.

READ: I Samuel 25:36-38

We can only speculate as to why Nabal was throwing such a party. Could it have been to celebrate the way he, so openly, had humiliated David? Or maybe just to work on his image? (As believers, ours is not to look good but to do good!) In any case, he was drunk with both wine and pleasure. In the morning, Abigail's confession hit him like a ton of bricks! What really happened to him, I wonder? A stroke? A paralyzing realization that he had been so close to being killed? A self-imposed silence brought on by the shock of what Abigail had done behind his back? Whatever, it comes down to the wages of sin. There are eternal wages for unforgiven sin. And there are temporal wages for sin in our lives, even that sin which has been paid for on Calvary. Sin always has wages. As believers, we desire to stay away from sin, but when it comes to us, to deal with it immediately, lest sorrow come upon sorrow; that is, the sorrow of sinning against God, and the sorrow of living with the consequences.