



Lesson 74

DAVID AND ABIGAIL

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Samuel 25: • Setting: approx. 1030 B.C. • Main Characters: God, David, Nabal, and Abigail • Plot: David is slighted by Nabal and would've killed the man were | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it not for the wise intercession of Nabal's wife Abigail. • Key word(s): " _____ " (see especially verse 25) • Climax: "And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword..." (vs. 13) |
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Samuel's Death (v 1)

1. Samuel's death is mentioned in 1 Sam. 25:1. As the last of the _____, his death marks the end of an era for Israel.
2. Samuel was so beloved of his people, that multitudes mourned his death at _____.

Nabal's Foolishness (vv 2-13)

3. David, still on the run from Saul, journeys with his men into the wilderness of Paran, an area in the northeast of the _____ Peninsula.
 - a. While journeying through Paran and to Carmel, David and his men helped protect the shepherds and flocks of a man named Nabal. (vv 7, 15-16)
 - b. Nabal (whose name means " _____ ") was a rich man of Maon who was as churlish and evil as he was rich. His wife, on the other hand, was wise and beautiful. (v 3)
4. When sheep shearing time arrived, it was the general practice to celebrate with a large _____.
 - a. When David heard of Nabal's sheep-shearing festivities, he sent messengers to appeal to Nabal's hospitality and request provisions for David and his men.
 - b. David's request was not unreasonable, for David and his men had protected Nabal's shepherds and flocks from harm (i.e., the raiding _____ of the region).
5. David's reasonable and humble request was met with inhospitable insults. Enraged at Nabal's arrogant ingratitude, David assembled a band of four hundred to plunder and destroy Nabal. (The idiom in v 22 refers to David's intent to kill all the _____).

Abigail's Wisdom (vv 14-44)

6. Abigail heard of her husband's foolishness and David's wrath, and she prepared a generous gift for David and his men (v 18) and intercepted David before he found

Nabal. Appealing to David's _____ in God (v 26), Abigail successfully convinces David to restrain his rage. (vv 23-35)

7. The next day, when Nabal began to sober up, Abigail relayed the events to her husband. Upon hearing of his near-death experience, Nabal's "heart died within him, and he became as a stone" (possibly meaning that he suffered a paralyzing _____). Ten days later, Nabal died.
8. When news of Nabal's death reached David, he thanked God he didn't take matters into his own hands and instead allowed God to repay Nabal for his insolence. David also asked Abigail to be his wife (she accepted). (v 42)

Application

9. Nabal was as wealthy as he was ungracious and arrogant. What does the Bible say is the purpose of wealth? _____
10. Abigail illustrates the wise interceder, and her parley with David reminds us of Paul's letter to _____. Like Paul, she was willing to take make restitution, though the fault was not her own. (cf. Phi. 18)
11. We are also reminded of Savior's intercessory work: he takes the _____ for our sin and thus averts the righteous judgment of God against us.

Answer Key

Key Word(s) Nabal • 1. judges • 2. Ramah • 3. Sinai; b) fool • 4. feast; b) Bedouins • 5. males • 6. faith • 7. stroke • 9. to be a blessing to others (cf. Eph. 4:28) • 10. Philemon • 11. blame