

Abigail the Intercessor

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.

May 8, 2022

A Christian Home

Words by Barbara B. Hart

Music by Jean Sibelius

Tune FINLANDIA (11.10.11.10.11.10)

Pastor O give us homes, built firm upon the Savior,
Where Christ is Head and Counselor and Guide;

Men Where every child is taught His love and favor
And gives his heart to Christ the Crucified:

Women *How Sweet to know that tho' his footsteps waiver,
His faithful Lord is walking by his side!*

Pastor O give us homes with godly fathers, mothers,
Who always place their hope and trust in Him;

Men Whose tender patience turmoil never bothers,
Whose calm and courage trouble cannot dim;

Women *A home where each finds joy in serving others,
And love still shines, tho' days be dark and grim.*

Pastor O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master,
Where the Bible is read, the precious hymns still

sung;

Men: Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster,
And praise in natural speech to every tongue;

Women: *Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster,
And Christ sufficient is for old and young.*

Pastor O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever!
We trust to Thee their problems, toil, and care;

Men: Their bonds of love no enemy can sever.
If Thou art always Lord and Master there:

Women: *Be Thou the center of our least endeavor.
Be Thou our guest, our hearts and homes to share.*

Scripture: I Samuel 25:2-13, 18-19, 23-25, 35

Purpose: Introduce the congregation to a woman named Abigail. Because of her actions, she and her husband's servants were spared death. We too, can be intercessors for our family and generation. WE must be sensitive to God and the events around us. WE must be willing to act quickly when the opportunity arises. WE must redeem the time before destruction comes.

Kate Samperi, in her book, "Celebrating Mothers" makes this observation:

Before becoming a mother, I had a hundred theories on how to bring up children. Now I have seven children and only one theory: love them, especially when they least deserve to be loved.¹

Edwin Amundson gives us the following observations concerning our world needing women.

According to the United Nation's statistics, "Women constitute over 50 percent of the world's population. But women do three-fourths of the world's work, receive one-tenth of the world's salaries, and own one one-hundredth of the world's land."



Women are major players in keeping the world going, but get less than their share of the compensation. Yet, they keep going, because they are not doing it for the sake of monetary reward, but out of the satisfaction of being



responsible. One bumper sticker read: "Real women don't have hot flashes, they have power surges." I think that must be true.

TEN THINGS A MOM DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR²

1. I swallowed a goldfish.
2. Your lipstick works better than crayons.
3. Does grape juice leave a stain???
4. The principal called...
5. But DAD says that word all the time.
6. What's it cost to fix a window???
7. Has anyone seen my earthworms???
8. I painted your shoes pretty, huh Mommy?
9. The dog doesn't like dressing up in your clothes.
10. I'm moving out. (Well, maybe some days.)



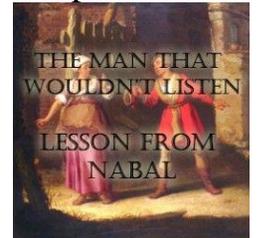
In our scripture reading this morning, we have encountered an interesting woman in the Old Testament. Her name is Abigail. We also encountered the man David who has already been anointed by Samuel to be King over Israel, but has not been installed as King. You see, the current king, Saul, is pursuing him to kill him. We also encounter Nabal, the husband of Abigail.



As we learned last week in our scripture passage on the Bible, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine.*” (2 Timothy 3:16) What is profitable in this chapter in 1 Samuel is that the three prominent persons mentioned, David, Abigail, and Nabal are representative of us today.

David, the Lord’s anointed leader of Israel, represents Christ.

Nabal, in his pride and foolishness is a type of person that rejects the word of Christ. Abigail is a beautiful example of those that believe in Christ and respond to Christ. For a few moments this morning, let us look at these three more carefully.



I. The Request of David ³

“Give I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand.” (v. 8)

A. The reason for the request

David and his men had been a wall of protection for Nabal’s herdsmen, both day and night while they were in the hills of Carmel. (v. 16) David had gathered men around him that protected him during the time that Saul sought to kill David. While he was avoiding Saul, his men and he lived nearby and provided protection for people like Nabal.

David’s presence saved and protected the sheep and goats that Nabal raised. Therefore, David’s request for food was a reasonable one.

References:

¹Kate Samperi, author, SOURCE: Celebrating Mothers: A Book of Appreciation. Edited by Glorya Hale and Carol Kelly-Gangi. MetroBooks, 2002. page 17.

²Steven Simala Grant, TEN THINGS A MOM DOESN’T WANT TO HEAR

³Outline from Handfuls on Purpose, Vol. 5, page 74-8.

How much more does God have a claim upon our lives? God has saved us by his power and through the presence of the Holy Spirit, he has a claim upon us.

B. How David Requested the Provisions

David sent out ten men in the name of their lord and master. They came requesting food and provisions. They did not demand it, they did not beg, they simply requested it. They came with a message of peace and not war.



God acts in a similar manner. God sends his ambassadors into the world with a message of peace and hope. Our message of hope comes through the teaching and preaching of those sent by God's Son, Jesus Christ. He has commissioned us to go and tell all the world about the salvation that can be found only in Christ. Our message is not our own. It is from the master.

When David sent his messengers into the world, he did not blame them for the rejection, he blamed the one that the message was intended for. We need to know that when we give the message of Christ to our friends and neighbors, if we are rejected, it is not US that is being rejected, it is the one that sent us that is being rejected.

II. The Foolishness of Nabal

This man was described as being GREAT. He apparently had accumulated great wealth in his life. But

Remember the importance of your character

- Nabal had everything: health & wealth.
- God doesn't look at the outside, but the inside.
- Nabal may be the fool Jesus thought about in *Luke 12:15-21*.
- God is not looking for what you have, but what you are.



himself against the eternal God. God will not be mocked. In due time their foot will slide.

2. Abigail the Believer, is Exalted

Later in this passage, we see that David sent messengers to her and asked her to become his wife. She graciously accepted his offer. Because of the death of Nabal, she was free to accept the offer of David.



Later, David and Abigail would have a son. His name was Chileab (2 Samuel 3:3) or also known as Daniel (1 Chronicles 3:1)

Today on Mother's Day, we can leave here knowing that there are people in the Bible just like us today. There are believers who are interceding on our behalf before a righteous and Holy God. There are unbelievers that are still continuing to reject Christ. We will have our reward one day. Either to live in the presence of our God and King, or either to receive damnation and rejection by God.



The offer is yours ... Which will you choose?

LET US PRAY

3. Abigail Testified Courageously

In the morning, after the wine had worn off, Abigail came to Nabal and told him what she had done. When she did, his heart collapsed and he was made as a stone. Ten days later he died.



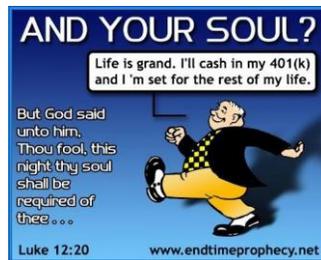
She was wise enough to not confront him while he was drunk. You cannot reason with a drunk person. They think they are invincible. Abigail did not know what the reaction of Nabal would be. He could have lashed out at her. She confessed David as King despite her husband's opinion of him.

Women should take courage from this message. If your husband is not a believer, continue to confess Christ as your Saviour. He may come around one day if you persist and continue to intercede on his behalf.

IV. The Results of this Story

1. Nabal the Rejecter was Smitten

The Lord smote Nabal and he died. (v. 38) Maybe Jesus had Nabal in mind when he gave the parable of the fool in Luke 12. *“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.”* The plans and purposes of the ungodly to escape the claims of Jesus Christ are weapons formed against Him that will not prosper. The man or woman that refuses to believe in Christ is setting



just because a person has wealth, doesn't make them wise. When a person is confronted with the claims of God, either his wisdom or his foolishness comes to the surface.

1. First, Nabal rejects the claims of David

Nabal answered, “Who is this man, David? And who is the son of Jesse?”



Just like the Pharaoh in Egypt that boasted of his ignorance, Nabal boasted in his ignorance.

The servants of Christ that bring a message for Christ are often met with the same kind of reaction.

Arguing with Nabal was out of the question. Nabal thought in his own mind he was wise. The Christ rejecting world think they too are wise. We will waste our breath if we persist in arguing with unbelievers. So, the servants of David turned their backs and left empty handed. They left to go tell David of their encounter.

2. Nabal lived to Gratify Himself

As David servants were leaving, Nabal decided to throw himself a party. Nabal had made satisfying his needs and his body his own god.



His belly became his god. He had nothing for David, the Lord's anointed. He only spent his wealth on himself. There are many today that consider the work

of God to be nothing. They only spend their money on themselves, laying up a reward for themselves and not for God.

III. The Wisdom of Abigail

We turn to the bright spot in this story. Abigail was one that was quick to intercede on the behalf of her husband and the other servants. She was an intercessor.

The definition of an Intercessor is: A person that pleads or makes a request on behalf of another or others. A person that intervenes for the purpose of produces an agreement. A person that mediates.

Abigail did that without a doubt. Notice that she ...

1. Abigail Yielded Immediately

She arose immediately when she got word of the request of David. She gathered 200 loaves of bread, two skins of wine, 5 dressed and prepared sheep, roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of figs. These were loaded on donkeys and sent on ahead to meet David.

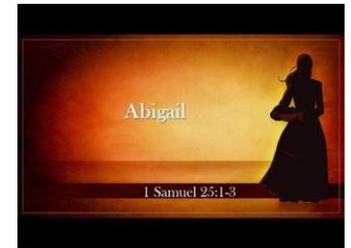


This was a work of faith as well as a labor of love. She knew of David and what he had done for them. She wanted to return back to him this gift. She knew that there was danger in delaying answering the request. She knew the wrath of David and knew that soon the sword would fall.

How many of us know what Christ has done for us, yet continue to wait? One day the sword will fall and our time to respond will end.

2. Abigail Pleaded Earnestly

When she came to David, she pleaded for her foolish husband. She pleaded for Nabal's life and pleaded for her life. She knew their life was in David's hands.



Once she delivered these items to David, he responded with forbearance. He said... (see quote in the picture to the right)

Have you ever taken the time to make a list of your friends and family that have not committed themselves to Christ? I have done that from time to time and began praying for them. We need to recapture the urgency of other people's salvation before it is too late. We need to begin praying urgently for them.

Otherwise, As Surely As The Lord, The God Of Israel, Lives, Who Has Kept Me From Harming You, If You Had Not Come Quickly To Meet Me, Not One Male Belonging To Nabal Would Have Been Left Alive By Daybreak."
1 Samuel 25:34
BibleWordings.com

There are mothers across the world that are still praying for their children that have gone astray. I don't understand why it is the women that have a heart of intercession, but that seems to be the way it is.