

The Example of Abigail

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Introduction: We live in a world where instant results are pursued as "wisdom".

- A. This kind of thinking is a product of worldliness.
 - 1. The worldly mind pursues the fulfillment of one's always changing desires! **(1 Jn 2:15-17)**
 - 2. The worldly mind has no concept of future consequences.
 - 3. The worldly mind has no peace only temporary escape. **(Jn 14:27; 16:32-33)**
 - 4. The spiritual mind is the opposite of all these things. **(Rom 8:5-6, 13)**
- B. There is a great need of spirituality in our homes.
 - 1. Today we will study about a woman who was truly a "daughter of Sarah." **(1 Pet 3:1-6)**
 - 2. Worldliness says that you should leave your mate when they do wrong.
 - 3. The spiritual mind trust God, knowing that God will take care of them.
 - 4. We will examine the character and life of a godly woman named Abigail, who was married to a rich fool named Nabal.

I. The Foolishness of Nabal

- A. Even though Nabal was very rich, he was known for being harsh and evil. **(1 Sam 25:2-3)**
 - 1. Often one of the worst things that could happen to a man is success. **(1 Tim 6:9-10)**
 - 2. Nabal had become blind to the true riches! One of the easiest ways to see worldliness in another is to see how they treat other people! Our tongues will say much about whom we serve.
 - 3. Nabal spoke harshly to David through his servants. **(1 Sam 25:5-12)**
 - 4. This action was out of greed because he owed David for his protection and care for his flocks. Here is an evil man trying to cheat another out of a few dollars. **(1 Sam 25:14-17)**
- B. Nabal would not listen to others. **(1 Sam 25:17)**
 - 1. Nabal name has the meaning of "fool" or "rude, ill-bred."
 - 2. Truly this is the action of a fool. **(Prov 1:7; 12:15; 23:9)**
 - 3. Sometimes we may use the word "stubbornness".
- C. Nabal was also a drunkard. **(1 Sam 25:36)**
 - 1. It is not uncommon to see "stubbornness", anger, and drunkenness together in one person. This will produce horrible fruits. **(Prov 4:17; Prov 20:1)**
 - 2. Should Abigail have left Nabal? NO!

II. The Wrath of David

- A. David was a powerful man, but he still approached Nabal in a very humble way. **(1 Sam 25:8)**
 - 1. David called himself a "son" before Nabal.
 - 2. While he could have demanded this and more, he did not.
- B. After such a harsh rebuke, David's wrath was kindled. **(1 Sam 25:13, 21-23)**

1. Nabal had pretended not to know David and even referred to him as a runaway servant. **(1 Sam 25:10-11)**
2. Often the foolish and wrathful answer stirs more wrath. **(Prov 15:1-2)**
3. David had time to rehearse his insult and to take quick action. This was not wise. **(Jas 1:19-20)**
4. How many have used the "swords of their tongues " without thinking?

III. The Wisdom and Influence of Abigail

- A. Abigail was quick to respond to do good. **(1 Sam 25:18-20)**
 1. If we would restrain our anger and unleash our good deeds this wisdom will bless all. **(Jas 3:17-18)**
 2. This took a great humility!
- B. She responded to David in absolute humility. **(1 Sam 25:23-25)**
 1. There are some that cannot confess their wrong. They hope that others forget because they have stopped their neglect.
 2. Here Abigail makes a public confession that showed a great humility.
- C. Abigail had a great faith in God. **(1 Sam 25:26-31)**
 1. This was not just advice for David, Abigail had humbly lived with this man. Personal vengeance was the "easy" way out. This did not show faith in God. **(Rom 12:19-21; 1 Pet 2:23; Heb 11:35)**
 2. Unlike Nabal, David heard this true wisdom and changed. **(1 Sam 25:34-35)**
 - a. How many foolish men fail to listen to the good advice of their wives.
 - b. Often the difference between the foolish and the wise is found here.

IV. The Care and Reward of God

- A. God has promised great blessings for those who "wait on Him." **(Ps 27:14; 37:7-9)**
 1. Why is it hard to "wait?"
 2. Like Abraham, here is where we show if we really believe in God.
- B. Nabal met a quick death by God. **(1 Sam 25:37)**
- C. Abigail's faith and character so impressed David that he married her. **(1 Sam 25:39-42)**
- D. David showed these qualities in not seeking vengeance upon Saul. He finally was made king.

Conclusion: Are you waiting on the Lord?

- A. We need more godly mothers like Abigail who are willing to suffer for a short time so that God might bless them and their families in the long term. **(Prov 31:10-12)**
 1. What a blessing such a woman is to her family!
 2. To be like this you must build your faith. **(Prov 31:30-31)**
- B. We need more Abigail's who will use their influence to put away wrath.
 1. Instead of gossip and innuendo, she will use words of edification. **(Rom 14:19)**
 2. Often the difference in the atmosphere in the home and the church are godly women.