

A Woman of Wisdom

1 Samuel 25:14-44

1 Samuel 25 is about a wise woman named Abigail who was married to a foolish man named Nabal. In some ways, all of us could relate to Abigail in that one way or another and in varying degrees, we struggle with our relationship with our spouses. But God wants us to understand that because He blesses us with His wisdom, we must constantly strive to live godly lives.

In the story, Nabal's arrogant and foolish response to David's simple request angered David. David and his 400 men were set to massacre Nabal and his men. But God used Abigail to avert this bloodshed. In Abigail we see at least three profiles of wise woman

1. Abigail showed godly wisdom by being a _____

Abigail realized the danger she and her whole household were in, and so she set about to appease David (v.18). She prepared a supply of provisions over and above anything that David would have been expecting or had requested, and she took it and went out to meet them. Once she met David on the road, Abigail immediately began her appeal. She prostrated and bowed on her face before David as an act of homage, she respected him and she showed him (v.24). She is a humble peacemaker in that she took the guilt of her husband's iniquity upon herself. In spite of suffering many years of living with this foolish husband, she did not become bitter. Then she asks for pardon, because she herself did not know of David's request through his servants (v. 25).

2. Abigail showed godly wisdom by giving _____

God used Abigail to give advice to David - just the advice that he needed at that moment. Abigail's advice (to David) pointed out that God had providentially arranged their meeting in order to prevent David from committing murder and becoming blood-guilty. She reminded David that God is the only rightful avenger of the injustice that he suffered under Nabal (vv.25-26; cf. Rom. 12:9). She knew that David was the anointed king of Israel and reminding him that he would receive a dynasty as the King of Israel if he honored God (vv.27-28). She even assures David of God's protection from Saul and his enemies (v. 29), assuring his kingship (vv. 30). Her advice protected David's future righteous rule (v. 31).

3. Abigail showed godly wisdom by exercising _____

Abigail did not confront her foolish drunk husband. She waited when he awakened the following morning when he was sober. She showed respect to her husband by keeping quiet and waited for the right time to speak her mind (Prov. 25:11-13).

God's wisdom as shown in Abigail's life is manifested in humble peacemaking, in giving spiritual counsel and in exercising careful discernment. May God grant us the grace and willingness to follow Abigail's wise and godly conduct.