

1 Samuel 25 keywords

Now Samuel died; and all Israel assembled and mourned for him. They buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David got up and went down to the wilderness of Paran. There was a man in Maon, whose property was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was **shearing** his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The **woman** was clever-**good** and beautiful, but the man was hard and evil of practices and of **heart**; he was a Calebite.

David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was **shearing** his sheep. So David sent ten **young men**; and David said to the **young men**, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and offer him **peace** in my name. Thus you shall salute him: '**Peace** be to you, and **peace** be to your house, and **peace** be to all that you have. **Now** I hear that you have **shearers**; **now** your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing, all the time they were in Carmel. Ask your **young men**, and they will tell you. Therefore let my **young men** find favor in your sight; for we have come on a **good** day. Please give whatever you have at **hand** to **your servants** and to your son David.'"

When David's **young men** came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David; and then they waited. But Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are breaking away from **their lords**. Shall I take my bread and my water and the meat that I have butchered for my **shearers**, and give it to **men** who come from I do not know where?"

So David's **young men** turned away, and came back and told him all this. David said to his **men**, "Every man **strap on his sword!**" And every one of them **strapped on his sword**; David also **strapped on his sword**; and about four hundred **men** went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

But one of the **young men** told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute **our lord**; and he shouted insults at them. Yet the **men** were very **good** to us, and we suffered no harm, and we never missed anything when we were in the fields, as long as we were with them; they were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. **Now** therefore know this and consider what you should do; for **evil** has been decided against **our lord** and against all his house; he is so ill-natured that no one can speak to him."

Then Abigail **hurried** and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys and said to her **young men**, "Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. As she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his **men** came down toward her; and she met them. **Now** David had said, "Surely it was in vain that I protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; but he has returned me **evil** for **good**. God do so to David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one of his who pisses against the wall." When Abigail saw David, she **hurried** and alighted from the donkey, fell before David on her face, bowing to the ground. She fell at his **feet** and said, "Upon me alone, **my lord**, be the guilt; please let **your servant** speak in your ears, and hear the words of **your servant**. **My lord**, put out of your **heart** this ill-natured fellow, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, **your servant**, did not see the **young men** of **my lord**, whom you sent. **Now** then, **my lord**, as **YHWH** lives, and as you yourself live, since **YHWH** has restrained you from bloodguilt and from seeking deliverance by your own **hand**, **now** let your enemies and those who seek to do **evil** to **my lord** be like Nabal. And **now** let this present that **your servant** has brought to **my lord** be given to the **young men** who walk at the **foot** of **my lord**. Please forgive the trespass of **your servant**; for **YHWH** will certainly make **my lord** a sure house, because **my lord** is fighting the battles of **YHWH**; and **evil** shall not be found in you so long as you live. If anyone should rise up to pursue you and to seek your **life**, the **life** of **my lord** shall be bound in the bundle of the living under the care of **YHWH** your God; but the **lives** of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. When **YHWH** has done to **my lord** according to all the **good** that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you prince over Israel, **my lord** shall have no stumbling block of the **heart**, or pangs of conscience, for having shed blood without cause or for having saved himself. And when **YHWH** has done **good** with **my lord**, then remember **your servant**."

David said to Abigail, "**Blessed be YHWH**, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! **Blessed be** your **good** sense, and **blessed be** you, who have kept me today from bloodguilt and from delivering myself by my own **hand**! For as surely as **YHWH** the God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from doing **evil** to you, unless you had **hurried** and come to meet me, truly by morning there would not have been left to Nabal so much as one who pisses against the wall." Then David received from her **hand** what she had brought him; he said to her, "Go up to your house in **peace**; see, I have heeded your voice, and I have granted your petition."

Abigail came to Nabal; he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. Nabal's **heart** was **good** within him, for he was very drunk; so she told him nothing at all until the morning light. In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his **heart** died within him; he became like a stone. About ten days later **YHWH** struck Nabal, and he died.

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "**Blessed be YHWH** who has judged the case of Nabal's insult to my **hand**, and has kept back his servant from **evil**; **YHWH** has returned the **evil**-doing of Nabal upon his own head." Then David sent and wooed Abigail, to make her his wife. When David's servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, "David has sent us to you to take you to him as his **woman**." She rose and bowed down, with her face to the ground, and said, "**Your servant** is a slave to wash the **feet** of the servants of **my lord**." Abigail got up **hurriedly** and rode away on a donkey; with the five maids going at her **feet**. She went after the messengers of David and became his **woman**. David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel; both of them became his **women**. Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's **woman**, to Palti son of Laish, who was from Gallim.