***Godly Women Series 2019 Part 4***

Abigail: Heart Of A Hero

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 21st, 2019

Text: I Sam. 25

# **Intro**

1. There are examples both good and bad in the Scriptures.
2. Men and women alike can provide us with sources of strength and inspiration.
   1. Eve: “Mother of all living” (Gen. 3:20) and an example of moving past sin!
   2. Sarah: Mother of nations (Gen. 17:16), Mother of saints (Gal. 4:26,31), Mother of godly wives (I Pet. 3:6), and is an example of faith and overcoming one’s weaknesses!
   3. Ruth: An example of faith and virtue (Ruth 1:16-18; 3:11)!
3. Godly role models are greatly needed today!
4. The account of Abigail, wife of Nabal, in I Sam. 25 is about a godly woman saving Israel’s future king from a foolish mistake, and thus saving the nation!
   1. Abigail has been called “A woman of wisdom,” “The hidden hero,” & “A worthy wife.”
   2. The account is between two accounts of David sparing Saul (I Sam. 24, 26).
   3. His resolve to slaughter all that belonged to Nabal because of an insult is perhaps his natural tendency, thus it highlights his restraint in dealing with Saul.
   4. Many commentators and scholars liken the whole account as a summation of David’s struggle with Saul; as God dealt with Nabal, so also would God do to David’s enemies!
   5. Some modern scholars have likened David’s actions to mob-like practices of “protection rackets” – that is not the case, David didn’t threaten harm if no payment.
5. *I Sam. 25:1-13*
   1. Samuel, the Prophet, Priest, and Judge died and all the land mourned him.
   2. David is in the wilderness of Paran and protected shepherds of a rich man (Nabal).
   3. At the sheep shearing at Carmel, David sent messengers asking for a gift (tip) for his services in the field (Lesson: Don’t act out of kindness expecting to be repaid).
   4. Nabal refused and insulted David.
   5. David called his men to arms and declared war on Nabal’s house!
6. Abigail and Nabal – I Sam. 25:3
   1. Abigail *(Heb. Source of Joy, “My father is joy”)* was wise (discerning, intelligent) and beautiful!
   2. Nabal *(Heb. Fool, Worthless)* was like his name: foolish, harsh, evil, badly behaved. He was a Calebite, descendant of Caleb *(H3612),* which means “Dog” *(Heb.).* Nabal the Calebite = Foolish Dog!
7. Abigail was wise, beautiful, and possessed the heart of a hero!
8. **A Heart of Wisdom**
9. I Sam. 25:3
   1. NASB: She was “intelligent and beautiful in appearance.”
   2. KJV/NKJV: She was of “good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance (“appearance”).”
   3. ESV: She was “discerning and beautiful.”
10. I Sam. 25:14-19
    1. When a servant told her what David and his men had done for them and of David’s request and Nabal’s answer, she put things in motion quick!
    2. She had the respect of her servants as one can see she put together a lot of food fast to send to David.
    3. The servant was able to call her husband “a worthless man” and she didn’t rebuke him.
    4. Hospitality in that area at that time was important, and she knew as well as her servants that a mighty man and his band of 600 men of war had been insulted.
    5. She didn’t ask for permission, counsel with anyone, tell her husband, she just went into action to save her household, even her husband’s life. (Has been called by some, “The first feminist” – not true).
11. I Sam. 25:32-33
    1. David thanked God for sending her to stop him, and for her “discernment,” or “advice” (NKJV).
    2. In a time of lesser roles for women, the future king listened to a woman & thanked God for her!
12. I Sam. 25:36
    1. She was wise enough to not fight with a drunk, but waited till he was sober.
13. Abigail’s wisdom saved the day for her and her household!

### **A Heart of Respect**

1. I Sam. 25:20-25
   1. David had intended to kill Nabal and all who belonged to him!
   2. When she came to David, she “bowed herself to the ground” before David.
   3. “She fell at his feet” and took the blame for her husband’s behavior, and said, “please” before making her petition. (I Sam. 25:23-24)
   4. Lots of different paths she could’ve taken:
      1. She could have threatened David by telling Saul where he was (Like the city of Keilah would have done – I Samuel 23)
      2. She could have gathered all her family and servants she cared about and ran out of harm’s way – leaving her husband to David’s wrath.
   5. She admitted her husband was as his name, a fool.
   6. Not a secret – the man’s servants, and David and his men knew! (Probably anyone he did business with also knew)
2. *Gen. 33:3-7*
   1. Bowing was a form of showing respect – Jacob and his family bowed before Esau when they met.
3. Abigail’s respect caused David to listen to her, and not just brush her off!

### **A Heart of Faith**

1. I Sam. 25:26-29
   1. Abigail shows great faith in God and reminds David of who he is (a man after God’s own heart needed reminding?) and what God has promised to do for him (25:30)!
      1. David being anointed next king is wide-spread!
   2. She uses her faith in God to strengthen David’s and caused him to see the error of his plan!
   3. She reminds him that God avenges, and that David should not take revenge, then praises him for fighting the Lord’s battles. *(Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30)*
   4. She takes the blame for her husband’s insult and asks for forgiveness, and pleads with David to take what she brought as restitution and let God deal with his enemies!
      1. She even says “may all David’s enemies be as Nabal.” (Fools!)
   5. She knows and states that God will protect David, and God will deal with his enemies.
2. It is important for God’s people to have mates that share their faith!
   1. II Cor. 6:14: It was true of the Israelites, and Paul says it’s important for Christians too, though not as binding as under the Old Law.
   2. David did not have that connection with his first wife Michal the daughter of Saul.
      1. She loved David (I Sam. 18:20) and her love was partly the reason Saul hated David and became his enemy (18:27-29).
      2. But later in the years to come she had become bitter and resented David (perhaps because he waited so long to come back for her) and she rebuked him for dancing before the ark as it came into Jerusalem (II Sam. 6:20).
      3. Perhaps it was that reason she had no children all her days (II Sam. 6:23).
3. In Abigail, David saw and heard the word of God, and found a kindred spirit!
4. Abigail’s faith stopped David from bloodshed and from avenging himself!

### **A Heart of Concern**

1. I Sam. 25:30-31
   1. She showed concern that after God makes David king he will hurt from guilt and perhaps loss of reputation for the innocent bloodshed at Nabal’s property.
   2. She showed concern for her husband, her servants, her property and even her own life in coming to David quickly to stop him from his murderous rampage.
2. *Eph. 5:22-33*
   1. The church is paralleled to the marriage relationship.
   2. Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.
   3. So husbands are to love their wives, and wives are to submit to and respect their husbands.
   4. We see that husbands and wives act out of concern for one another, just as Christ acted selflessly for the church.
3. Abigail acted selflessly and out of concern for her family put herself at the mercy of David on behalf of her husband and household!
4. I Sam. 25:32-35
   1. David blessed God and blessed her for her words of wisdom and for restraining his hand from bloodshed.
   2. Then he said, “See, I have listened to you and granted your request.”
   3. The future king of Israel listened to the advice of a woman and thanked God for her!
5. Abigail’s concern saved her family and household from the wrath of a mighty man of war!

# **Conclusion**

1. I Sam. 25:36-38
   1. She went home to find Nabal exalting himself like a king and very drunk.
   2. She waited till morning “when the wine had gone out of Nabal” to tell him what she did.
   3. Upon hearing how close he had come to death at the hands of the man he insulted, and what his wife had done to stop it, “his heart died within him” and God struck him that he died 10 days later.
   4. Despite the kind of man Nabal was, he was blessed to have such a wife as Abigail (many wonder how he came to be married to her).
   5. To her credit, she stayed with him and selflessly saved him, even taking on his sin!
2. I Sam. 25:39-42
   1. David heard of Nabal’s death, praised God for dealing with his enemy, and proposed marriage to Abigail for her to be his wife!
   2. She went from being the petitioner to the petitioned!
   3. She humbly accepts his proposal.
   4. *Prov. 31:10:* “An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.”
3. In this account we see that whoever exalts himself will be humbled (Nabal was killed by God), and she who humbles herself will be exalted (Abigail became the wife of the king) – Luke 14:11
4. Abigail had the heart of a hero and was blessed by God in what she did.
   1. Wisdom, Respect, Faith, and Concern!
5. After her marriage to David little is known of her.
   1. She was taken captive by the Amalekites from Ziklag and was rescued by David and his men *(I Sam. 30).*
   2. She gave to David a son, Chileab, his second son *(II Sam. 3:3)*
6. Abigail stands as an example of a faithful woman despite her circumstances and who she was married to! *(She didn’t use her circumstances as an excuse!)*
7. Do you have the heart of Abigail?
   1. A Heart of Wisdom, Respect, Faith, and Concern?
8. If you are not a Christian, you are not serving God but yourself. Repent and be baptized!
9. If a Christian in error, repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests may be, come forward ***NOW***and let them be known while we stand and sing!