Abigail: A Type of Christ

Zanesville, OH | October 28, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** 1 Sam. 25:2-35

**Intro**:

* It is the time of shearing sheep in Judea (Gen. 31:19; 38:13; Deut. 15:19; 1 Sam. 25:2, 4, 7)
* A wealthy man named Nabal (foolish, senseless) is shearing sheep in Carmel (1 Sam. 25:2, 5-7)
* David’s men have been protecting the sheep (1 Sam. 25:15-16) and are seeking the usual payment for their labor (1 Sam. 25:8; 2 Sam. 13:23-24)
* Nabal’s pride and foolishness gets the better of him and he refuses to pay (Prov. 10:8; 18:7; 1 Sam. 25:9-11)
* David’s men take word back to him (1 Sam. 25:12) and David is hungry for blood (1 Sam. 25:13)
* Meanwhile, one of Nabal’s young men updates Abigail (my father is delighted) on the developing situation (1 Sam. 25:14-17)
* Notice that the section emphasizes Nabal’s foolishness and senseless and Abigail’s intelligence and wisdom (1 Sam. 25:3)

**Abigail**

1. **The willing intercessor: 1 Sam. 25:18-22**
   1. Armed with information that affects the fate of her husband, Abigail proves to be a woman of character and courage.
   2. She immediately acts to remedy (intercedes) the situation that Nabal has created (v. 18). Notice that the text emphasizes her willingness to take charge and make decision without telling Nabal (v. 19-20).
   3. She does not take advantage of the situation, but she seeks to do good to her husband even though he does not deserve it (Prov. 31:10, 12).
   4. As she prepares to step in, the story reverts back to David and his men who are bloodthirsty and are on a mission to destroy Nabal and his household (vv. 21-22).
2. **Took the blame on herself: 1 Sam. 25:23-25**
   1. As she meets David and his men, Abigail immediately prostrates herself showing respect and honor. She seeks to attract the attention of David in a humble way (v. 23).
   2. An almost unexpected and rather surprising statement exits her mouth. She takes the blame for what Nabal has done (v. 24). She continues to act in humility (contrast Nabal).
   3. She speaks to David in submission and requests that he would forget about Nabal for he is worthless just as his name suggests (v. 25). Knowing this, she still does him good. She is appealing to David not to be like Nabal (Prov. 12:15; 14:16; 26:4; 29:11).
   4. She implies by her statement in v. 25 that if she had known about David’s request in the first place, she would not have let this situation escalate.
3. **Defuses a volatile situation: 1 Sam. 25:26-34**
   1. Abigail, now having David’s attention (v. 26), skillfully and wisely defuses the situation that was going to end in devastation. Her elongated speech reflects that of her intelligence and wisdom (v. 3; Prov. 31:26).
   2. Abigail’s speech reflects her knowledge of David’s anointing and his relationship with the LORD (vv. 28-31). She ensures David that this act is not like him and it’s not for God’s anointed to pursue such a man as Nabal.
   3. Perhaps the most striking point is in v. 28 where she asks David to forgive her transgression. She has behaved with wisdom, humility and respect and has done everything excellently.
   4. David responds to Abigail (vv. 32-34) effectively thanking her for her intercession and her wisdom. He also acknowledges that God has worked through her to prevent him from carrying out bloodshed.

**Jesus**

1. **The willing intercessor**
   1. When we choose to sin, we effectively become Nabal (fools; Psa. 14:1-3). When we fail to recognize God and submit to His will for our lives we essentially sign our death certificates (Psalm 2).
   2. Therefore, someone (an Abigail) had to step in on our behalf. We needed an intercessor and we got one. Jesus willingly stepped in on our behalf because God’s wrath would consume us (1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 7:25; 8:6; 9:15; 12:24).
2. **Took man’s sin on Himself**
   1. Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the world. He essentially took the blame for us and God was satisfied to bruise Him in our stead (Isa. 53:4-6, 10; Mk. 10:45; Jn. 10:15; 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 21; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2:24).
   2. He sought our own spiritual well-being, our own good knowing full well we did not deserve anything (Rom. 5:8).
   3. Jesus came to fix a situation that man created. He did nothing but live a blameless, fruitful and exemplary life (1 Pet. 2:22-23).
3. **Defuses a volatile situation**
   1. Having done that, Jesus satisfied God’s wrath and put an end to the broken bridge (Col. 1:13; 1 Pet. 2:25; 1 Pet. 3:18, Rev. 1:5-6).
   2. Jesus, not owing us anything, lived a life of humility, service, sacrifice and love that was ultimately displayed on the cross when He said*, “Father forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (cf. Lk. 23:34).
   3. Somewhere behind the scenes (the spiritual realm), Jesus probably looking at us says, “Child you have come so close to death many times, but I died to save you. Repent, be baptized and follow Me before it’s too late.”