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The Woman Abigail
1Sam. 25

When God created man, He said that it was not good that man be alone, therefore He made a help comparable to him to complement man.

The world without women would be like flowers without color, the day without the sun or life without vision or desire.

There are many women in the world who are a model of virtue and grace as God intended them to be and one such woman is Abigail.

Abigail is a five-caret diamond in the midst of common stones, so for our study we want to study her from three vantage points.

- I. Abigail the women.
- II. Abigail the wise intercessor.
- III. Abigail the wife.

I. Abigail the women.

A. Abigail was married to a man named Nabal.

1Sam. 25:2-3a

1. The personal position of Abigail.

a. She was a woman of means, “Now *there was* a man in Maon whose business *was* in Carmel.” vs. 2a

b. She lived in the midst of riches, “and the man *was* very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats.” vs. 2b-c

* He had three thousand sheep and one thousand goats.

2. The woman’s name is stated, “and the name of his wife Abigail.” vs. 3b

a. Abigail “Abiyagayil” means my father is joy or exultation of my father. vs. 3a

b. She most likely was the apple of her father’s eye.

c. She without doubt was sought out by many men.

d. She was named for her beauty of mind and intellect.

3. Yet she was a sinner like all others.

a. She had temptations.

b. She had an evil heart.

c. She failed her God, people and herself.

* Too often when we read or study some of the characters of the Bible we think that they are so much holier than us, in and of themselves and it not true!

B. Abigail was a woman of good understanding.

1Sam. 25:3c

1. The phrase, “And *she was* a woman of good understanding” means she was intelligent in matters of natural, civil, domestic and spiritual things as is revealed.
 - a. Intelligence has to do with our ability to think and reason.
 - b. Intelligence as a marked trait will produce wisdom.
2. The wise woman is a price.
 - a. A wise person is one who is able to assimilate information, accommodate it and by virtue of understanding make the right and best choice to get the best results.
 - b. A wise person is one who is ever learning because they do not think they know everything.
3. The phrase encompasses being prudent.
 - a. Prudent has the idea of being discrete.
 - b. Knowing when to speak or not, knowing one’s place.
4. The phrase includes insight and good common sense.
 - a. There are many who have much information, yet are not wise.
 - b. They do not manifest good understanding evident on what they say or do.
 - c. Today’s modern world is a perfectly good example of people who have an overload of information while sacrificing good common sense, revealing they are

very unwise and without good understanding.

- 1) The teaching of evolution is a perfect example while having the information that absolutely denies such a theory.
- 2) The teaching of safe sex by using condoms, while knowing that the A.I.D.’s virus is hundreds of times smaller than the opening of every condom and latex glove.
- 3) The spread of the A.I.D.’s epidemic by the professionals and educators knowing it is lethal by lying to the public and kids about safe sex, rather than telling them they will die if they have sex with someone with A.I.D.’s.

C. Abigail was a good looking woman. 1Sam. 25:3c

1. The description is both of face and body, “and beautiful appearance.”
 - * The priority is on her intelligence, even before her beauty in our text.
2. Unfortunately the natural man apart from the Spirit and wisdom of God will put the priority in the woman’s beauty, rather than her intelligence.
 - a. Not that there is anything wrong with beauty nor that we should not desire it, but we should not be a slave to it.

- b. The problem is that at times women do not cultivate their intelligence knowing they can get attention and what they desire through their looks.
- c. All you have to do is look around at our society to see the emphasis that it places on the physical.
 - 1) The number of those who get face lifts, breast implants, liposuction, etc is at an all time high.
 - * Men as well get cosmetic surgery!
 - 2) They remove your own fat with a serenge and then inject it into the areas that are sagging or they inject you with low doses of toxins to paralyze the muscles on your face or forehead so you cannot frown.

Illustration

For ladies who want to get younger, (and who does not?): visit Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Upon arriving there, you immediately deduct seven years and eight months from your age, because of the local use of the Julian calendar. # 6720

This was Abigail the women!

II. Abigail the wise intercessor.

- A. The setting for the story of Abigail. 1Sam. 25:1-3

1. David had withdrew into the wilderness of Paran after Samuel's death in order to be safe from Saul. vs. 1
 - a. Samuel had died. vs. 1a
 - b. All of Israel gathered together to lament him. vs. 1b
 - b. They buried him at his home in Ramah. vs. 1c
 - * Samuel was the one who had anointed him.
2. Nabal again was from Maon a Carmelite business man. vs. 2a
 - a. He was very rich having three-thousand sheep and one-thousand goats.
 - b. He was sheering his sheep in Carmel.
3. Nabal stands in sharp contrast to his wife Abigail. vs. 3a-b
 - a. His name Nabal means fool, hers my father is joy or exaltation of her father.
 - b. His person is described as harsh and evil in his doings, while she is described by good understanding and beautiful appearance. vs. 3d
 - * The two-fold description of Nabal "harsh and evil" means morose and ill natured in his temper and disposition of mind, and wicked in his conversation, and fraudulent and oppressive in his dealings with men.
 - c. He was a descendant of Caleb, the man who along with Joshua brought back the

good report to enter the land, trusting God rather than their sight. vs. 3e

- B.** The seeking of Nabal, Abigail's husband by David's men. 1Sam. 25:4-13
- * The plan of David was to send some of his young men to collect some sheep at sheering time from Nabal, as payment for their protective services. vs. 4
 - 1.** David's message was to be communicated to Nabal. vs. 5-9
 - a.** They were supposed to greet him in David's name. vs. 5
 - b.** They were supposed to greet him with a blessing of peace on him, his house and all that he had. vs. 6
 - c.** They were to report of their protection of his flocks throughout the time they were present and that it could be verified by his men of the flocks, thereby in appreciation they were asking for some of the sheep in a sort of payment. vs. 7-8
 - d.** And having done so they waited for a response from Nabal. vs. 9
 - 2.** David's message was rejected by Nabal. vs. 10-13
 - a.** Nabal denied any knowledge of who David was, "Then Nabal answered David's servant, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse?". vs. 10a-c

- b.** Nabal further insulted David by declaring he was one of the rebellious servants of the day, "There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. vs. 10e
 - c.** Nabal questioned whether he should give any of his bread, water or meat, since he did not know where they were from. vs. 11
 - d.** Nabal's arrogance was communicated to David by his servants, Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies." vs. 12-13
 - 1)** Nabal did not recognize the protection given to him and his dishonored David. vs. 10-11
 - 2)** He was in a most perilous situation and did not know it. vs. 12-13
- C.** The sensible servant who sought Abigail's intervention. 1Sam. 25:14-22
- 1.** One of Nabal's young servants had good sense.
 - a.** "Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them." vs. 14

- b. He shared how they had protected them and missed nothing by their presence. vs. 15-16
 - c. He pleaded with her to do something against the harm determined on them, “Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he *is such* a scoundrel that *one* cannot speak to him.” vs. 17
2. Abigail revealed her good understanding as she gathered provisions. vs. 18-22
- a. She took a variety of provisions. vs. 18
 - b. She told her servant to go ahead of her and that she would follow but she did not tell her husband. vs. 19
 - c. She ran into David and his men. vs. 20
 - d. She was ignorant to the extent of David’s vengeance, “Now David had said, “Surely in vain I have protected all that this *fellow* has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *belongs* to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. “May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who *belong* to him by morning light.” vs. 21-22
 - 1) David got caught up in avenging himself out of personal offense!
 - 2) If we are wise enough not to avenge ourselves of the “Saul’s” in our lives,

we must be oh so careful not to fall prey to Nabal’s, adding hurt to our future and becoming greater fools than they!

- D. The submissive servant of David, Abigail. 1Sam. 25: 23-35
1. Abigail’s substitutionary intercession. vs. 23-31
- a. She quickly dismounted and fell on her face in obeisance, to plead for the offense of her husband. vs. 23
 - b. She humbled herself, “So she fell at his feet and said: “On me, my lord, *on* me *let* this iniquity *be!* And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.” vs. 24
 - c. She pleaded that he not regard her scoundrel husband Nabal, who was a fool, according to his name and apologized for not seeing the men he sent. vs. 25
 - d. She then told David that it was God who had held him back from avenging himself and desired that all his enemies be as Nabal. vs. 26
 - e. She asked that he except the present for the men, to forgive her trespass, for God would make him an enduring, for he fought the Lord’s battles and no evil had been found in his life. vs. 27-28

- f. She declared how God would protect him in battle and when He brought him into his kingdom, he would have no grief because he did not shed innocent blood nor avenged himself. vs. 27-31a-d
 - g. She requested that he remember her when the Lord dealt well with him. vs. 31e-f
2. David's submissive acknowledgment. vs. 32-38
- a. The words of David, "Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed *is* the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! vs. 32
 - b. He blessed her advise and her for keeping him from shedding bloodshed and avenge himself. vs. 33
 - c. He confessed that as God lived who had kept him from hurting her, unless she had come, not one male would of live by morning. vs. 34
 - d. He received the provision from her hand and sent her in peace to her house, declaring he had heed her voice and respected her person. vs. 35
- * David was approachable and learned that personal vengeance is a desire that is ever present, but should be averted at all cost!

E. The sweet end to the story. 1Sam. 25:36-42

- 1. Abigail returned home. vs. 36
 - a. Nabal was having a drunken party, like a feast of a king.
 - b. Nabal's heart was merry being drunk.
 - c. Nabal was left to his party, she told him notheing till the following morning.
- 2. Abigail's news of the event made Nabal go into shock. vs. 37-38
 - a. He became like a stone. vs. 37
 - b. He was stricken by God dead after ten days. vs. 38
- 3. David hearing of Nabal's death came and took Abigail for his wife. vs. 39-44
 - a. David blessed God for keeping him from evil and avenging him. vs. 39a-f
 - b. David remembered Abigail's request to remember her and showed his gratitude by proposing marriage to her. vs. 39g-h
 - c. David's proposal was excepted and she became his wife. vs. 41-42

Illustration

During the Crusades a knight was taken captive by the Moslem Saladin. The knight begged for his life, claiming that he had a wife in England who loved him dearly. Saladin commented that she would soon forget him and marry another. On second thought, the cruel chieftain offered to set the man free if the lady in question would send her right hand as token of her love for this captive.

When word was sent to this lady in England, she immediately cut off her right hand and sent it to Saladin. The man was forthwith returned to England.

There is a stature of this faithful woman in one of the old cathedrals of England. She is attractive, but the statue shows her without the right hand. #2330

* Abigail is a beautiful type of Christ, interceding on behalf of her husband who of himself was not worthy of it!

This was Abigail the wise intercessor!

III. Abigail the wife.

A. Abigail was a committed wife.

1. To remain in a marriage that was not the best.
 - a. She could of been promised by an arranged marriage.
 - b. She could of been swept off her feet only to have it turn sour after the fact?
 - c. She without doubt was much younger than Nabal.
2. To intervene in view of her husband's foolishness.
 - a. She knew his character.
 - b. She knew his disposition.
3. To secure the safety of the household.
 - a. She cared about people.
 - b. She took control when needed.
4. To jeopardize her own life.

- a. She was not thinking of herself.
 - b. She was trusting God.
 5. To take and place the fault on herself.
 - a. She was denying herself.
 - b. She was acting as her God.
- B. Abigail was a wife used of God.**
1. She told David that the Lord had held him back.
 2. She was used to confirm God's promise of establishing his kingdom.
 3. She was acknowledged as being sent from God by David to stop him from avenging himself and shed innocent blood.
 4. She was recompensed by God as He removed her from the oppressive home, striking Nabal dead.
 5. She was exalted to David's wife.
- C. Abigail was a wife of character.**
1. She was approachable by her servant.
 2. She was confident and desisive.
 3. She was honorable to her husband and her household.
 4. She was humble and sensitive on how she approached David, tactful.
 5. She was gentle to not tell her husband during the drunken party.
 6. She was faithful and content to go back home to her marriage.

7. She was loving by using the beauty of her heart to advantage others, rather than the beauty of her appearance to advantage herself.

Illustration

A biologist tells how he watched an ant carrying a piece of straw which seemed a big burden for it. The ant came to a crack in the earth which was too wide for it to cross. It stood for a time as though pondering the situation, then put the straw across the crack and walked across upon it.

Here is a lesson for all of us! A man's or woman's burden can be made a bridge for his progress. God often uses difficulties to test and make us more like Christ. #6866

This was Abigail the wife!

Conclusion

Abigail is a five-caret diamond in the midst of common stones from three vantage points.

- I.** Abigail the woman!
- II.** Abigail the wise intercessor!
- III.** Abigail the wife!