

# STRONG WOMEN, MIGHTY MEN

Part 1.1 Abigail, a woman caught between two 'Kings' 1 Samuel 25

The wisdom to respond PROMPTLY vs. 18-23

1. Abigail promptly fulfilled her cultural OBLIGATION vs. 18
2. Abigail promptly moved to PROTECT her family/business vs. 23

The wisdom to respond TACTFULLY vs. 23-35

1. Abigail's strength of HUMILITY vs. 23-25
2. Abigail's strength of TRUTHFULNESS vs. 26-31
  - She CAUTIONS David vs. 26, 31
  - She acknowledges FAULT vs. 25, 27
  - She has FAITH in God's plan vs. 28-30
3. David grants Abigail's PETITION vs. 32-35

The wisdom to respond HONESTLY vs. 36-37

- Her intention to IMMEDIATELY inform Nabal vs. 36
- Her PROMPT morning honesty vs. 37

God VINDICATES both Abigail and David vs. 37-42

- NEITHER Abigail nor David killed Nabal vs. 38
- David and Abigail MARRY vs. 39-42

Abigail's '*intelligence*' will be tested in DAVID'S house vs. 43-44

## Life Group Discussion Questions – September 22, 2019

**1 Samuel 25:25:** *Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name and folly is with him; but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.*

### QUICK REVIEW

1. Re-read 1 Samuel 25:1-17. Pastor Phil taught us that the name Nabal means "fool" and that he was a Calebite or "snapping dog." The name was ascribed to Nabal because of his character. What verses do you see in the passage that corroborates these ideas? In our present-day culture, how long does it take for a person's character to be established in a good sense? In a bad sense (like Nabal's)?
2. Abigail was caught up in a complex situation. What were the factors that made things so complicated? Did Abigail have the counsel of the Holy Spirit? What virtues did she have that she could implement to diffuse the escalating crisis?

### MY STORY

1. Read 1 Samuel 25:18-44. From these verses, we find that Abigail was decisive. She **discerned** that "time was of the essence." (see vv. 18, 23, 34) In your experience, how did waiting (or procrastinating) affect a difficult situation you were in? How would have acting sooner changed the outcome?
2. Abigail seized the opportunity to intercede on her foolish husband's behalf. Have you ever acted in the role of mediator or arbitrator? Or...have you witnessed someone else acting in this capacity? List the character traits that you think are most observable or desirable of successful mediators. Would God agree with your list? Why or why not?

### GOING DEEP

1. Re-read Abigail's petition to David. (vv. 23-31) What was it about Abigail's appeal that stopped David and his men in their tracks? There were nine things that she did that were effective in appeasing David's temper. What were they? Would this same gambit be as effective in our present-day Western culture? Why is that?
2. Abigail's intercession was, in essence, **indirect confrontation**. Discuss the benefits of indirectly opposing a stronger challenger or leader. How can being a peacemaker or mediator move trying circumstances towards relational restoration?
3. In terms of recompense (payment in full), why was it so important that David receive from Abigail what was owed to him? Discuss the implications if she hadn't gifted David.

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?

