

THE MAKING OF A KING

Part 5: Don't Let Foolishness Change Your Character

1 Samuel 25

Big Idea: Don't let temporary emotions, personal offenses, or someone else's foolishness cause you to abandon the character God is developing in you.

I. Don't let someone else alter your **character**. 1 Sam. 25:2-13

Key Truth: We can't **control** how people **treat** us, but we are **responsible** for how we **respond**.

"Hurt people, hurt people."

II. Consider what's at **stake**. 1 Sam. 25:14-35

Key Truth: Sometimes the greatest demonstration of strength is choosing not to use the power in which you possess.

"Do you have an Abigail in your life?"

III. Don't take into your hands what belongs to God. 1 Sam. 25:36-44

Key Truth: Our responsibility is to **obey** God; His responsibility is to judge **justly**.

*"Do I trust God enough to lay down my **sword**?"*

Notes:

Auburn Grace Community Church – October 25th, 2026

Life Application Questions – October 25, 2026

1 Samuel 25:26 *“Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, since the Lord has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal.”*

DISCOVER

1. In universal societal norms, define “The Golden Rule.” What is at stake when an unwritten social contract is violated?
2. Share of a time when you acted impulsively by taking matters into your own hands. Did you feel better because you “took care of business?” Was justice served or was that a secondary motivation of your action? Discuss some of the lessons learned.
3. Read Proverbs 15:1. Reflect on a time when a gentle response helped to de-escalate a conflict. What did you learn from that experience?
4. What are the pitfalls of always having to be right in a discussion? Discuss the allegory of a glass being either half-full or half-empty. Must it be one way or the other?

EXPLORE (read 1 Samuel 25:1-36)

1. Why did Nabal see David’s men as fugitives rebelling against King Saul instead of as people who had protected him? Is seeking wise counsel always prudent? When is it safe to not take other’s opinions into account?
2. How might you reconcile the two different responses David had to his enemies, Saul and Nabal? Was David justified in his intent to deal with Nabal? Explain.
3. What benefits might we reap when we demonstrate character integrity when things are not going well? How can others benefit from our righteous actions as well?
4. How does being insolent and over-assertive work to destroy our future?
5. Re-read vv. 3 and 19. If the Bible calls someone “intelligent,” then the wisdom ascribed is from heaven. Abigail willfully did not include her husband in her travail. Some would say she was disloyal or disrespectful to her husband. Why would God approve of Abigail acting against her husband’s wishes? Compare Abigail’s actions to Queen Esther’s when she went unsummoned before King Ahasuerus.
6. Re-read vv. 23-31. What makes Abigail’s appeal to David so well-reasoned? Where do you notice her posture of deep humility?

EXPERIENCE

1. Read James 1:19-20. How can being “quick to listen” improve your relationships with others? What practical steps can you take to develop this habit? In what ways can anger hinder the righteousness that God desires in our personal relationships and community interactions?
2. What kind of conversations trigger you and cause you to take offense? As a Christian, how and when might you take the “higher road” and work to diffuse or alleviate a potential conflict?
3. How would God describe your character? Why is God’s understanding of your heart the ultimate truth?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, calm the impetuous rush in my mind so that I don’t speak-out in a self-serving or fearful way; that I would be quick to listen and respond in grace and love. Amen.