



Rooted – Week 2 | Challenging Men “Lessons from a Boy Named Fool”

1 Samuel 25:1-11 (NIV)

Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Paran.

² A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. ³ His name was Nabal and his wife’s name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings—he was a Calebite.

⁴ While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. ⁵ So he sent ten young men and said to them, “Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. ⁶ Say to him: ‘Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!

⁷ “Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. ⁸ Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.”

⁹ When David’s men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David’s name. Then they waited.

¹⁰ Nabal answered David’s servants, “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. ¹¹ Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?”

1 Samuel 25:36-38 (NIV)

When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until daybreak. ³⁷ Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. ³⁸ About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died.

1. It’s foolish to confuse wealth with wisdom.

- Fools may have wealth but lack generosity.

1 Samuel 25:11 (NIV)

Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

- A fool often forgets the source of his wealth.

Lesson from a boy named Fool:

It is foolish to withhold from your King.

2. It's foolish to misapply your strength.

1 Samuel 25:3 (NIV)

His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings—he was a Calebite.

- Fools use strength for personal leverage instead of spiritual leadership.
- Fools use strength to hurt instead of heal.
- Fools use strength to threaten instead of protect.

Lesson from a boy named Fool:

It is foolish to use your strength to control people instead of care for people.

3. It's foolish to be a lousy listener.

1 Samuel 25:17 (NIV)

Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."

- Fools are too in love with their ideas to learn from others.
- Fools fail to realize that God often speaks to us through the voices of others in our lives.
- A fool rarely listens but often speaks reckless words.

Proverbs 15:2b (ESV)

but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

James 1:19 (NIV)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

- A fool vents while a wise man weighs his words.

Lesson from a boy named Fool:

It is foolish to reject correction from another.

4. It's foolish to live shortsighted.

- A fool prioritizes the temporal over the eternal.
- A fool isn't ignorant, just indifferent to what matters most.

Psalm 14:1a (NIV)

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Mark 8:36 (NIV)

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

Lesson from a boy named Fool:

No one can afford the cost of "shortsighted" living.