

1 Samuel Lesson 46 David Encounters Nabal and Abigail Part One

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Carmel: a town within the Judean wilderness. It was taken from the Amalekites by Saul (1 Sam. 15:12)

Nabal : this name means "the fool".

protection of sheep: David implies in his message to Nabal that his men had voluntarily protected Nabal's sheep from attack by wild animals. It was a custom at the time of sheep shearing to take a count of the sheep and then give rewards to the shepherds. These rewards usually included wool, dairy products and grain. Nabal states in 25:11 that bread, water and meat would be the rewards given to his men. David no doubt felt that his men should be included in the rewards.

Key word:

worthless: H1100 "beliyyaal " ungodly, wicked, scoundrel,.good for nothing, rascally

Read 1 Samuel 25: 1-17

At the beginning of Chapter 25 we read that the prophet Samuel died and all of Israel mourned for him. About this time David and his men moved further south to the wilderness of Paran.

1. In 1 Samuel 25:2 we read of a man named Nabal who lived in Maon and whose business was in Carmel. List all you can find out about Nabal in 25:1-17. List the verses along with the facts.

2. In 1 Samuel 25:17 Nabal is described as being worthless. The same Hebrew word is used Proverbs 6:12-14, 16:27 and Proverbs 19:28. What more can you learn about those who are worthless from these verses?

3. According to 1 Samuel 25:5-8 how were David's men told to greet Nabal and what were they to ask for? On what basis were they asking?

4. According to 25: 10-11 how did Nabal answer David's men? How is his answer consistent with his character? What can you learn from this about working with difficult people, particularly the ungodly?

5. In 25:13 how does David respond to the report from his men? How is this a sin on David's part? See James 1:19-20 and Romans 12:19-21.

6. Compare the way David dealt with Saul in Chapter 24 with the way David is intending to deal with Nabal in 25:13? What character qualities is God developing in David and how will that training help David as the future king?

Application: Does God have you in His training school ? How have the recent trials in your life contributed to your spiritual growth? What qualities are God developing in you through your trials??

