

## Sermon Discussion Questions

### **Nabal and Abigail**

1 Samuel 25:2-42

January 29, 2017

1. Remember the servant who had a real crisis on his hands where he took a risk to go against Nabal and go and talk with Abigail. Have you ever had a crisis on your hands where you had to take a big risk?
2. The first fill-in-the-blank was that a wise person promotes peace. Read Matthew 5:9; share scenarios of when there needs to be a peacemaker? When have you had to be a peacemaker? Share your story.
  - On a scale of 1-10 (10 being totally chaotic) — how much strife was stirred up in your home growing up? How do you think that affected you?
3. How is the soon to be king of Israel, David, acting in wisdom in 1 Samuel 25:8?
  - Read Proverbs 26:12 and Romans 12:3. How do they help us to picture what David was doing in 1 Samuel 25:8? How do we practice this without being self-deprecating?
4. The second description of fools was: “Fools are toxic.” Do you know anyone who is stubborn, or has to be right, or just wants to fight? How do you deal with that? Read these Proverbs and see how they might help us know how to deal with fools (cf. Proverbs 12:15; 13:20; 14:7; 17:10; 19:10; 23:9; 26:11; 27:22).
5. 1 Samuel 25 is smack dab in the middle of 1 Samuel 24 & 1 Samuel 26 (profound insight, I know). Look at what was happening in those two surrounding chapters and see if you can get a sense as to why David reacted so intensely against Nabal (1 Samuel 25:12-13, 20-22)?
  - What emotions or stressors get in the way for you to act wisely?
6. 1 Samuel 25:17 and 25:25 clearly indicate that Nabal was a “worthless man” (“son of Belial”). Can you think of anyone in your lifetime who fit that description? No need to give names :-). What can we learn from Abigail on how to deal with worthless people (1 Samuel 25:23-26 and 25:36-37)?
7. The closing line of the sermon was something like, “Wisdom is not a place we arrive at—its a horizon we keep striving for; & our foolishness fades further and further into our rearview mirror.” How can we know that we are striving for wisdom and not letting ourselves be governed by foolishness (list at least 7 things)?