

WE ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS

1 Samuel 25:1-4, *Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.*

- **Nabal |** fool: he is harsh and badly behaved; he is defined by his wealth.
- **Abigail |** "My Father is joy" or "My Father rejoices"; she is beautiful and discerning.

Isaiah 32:6, *For nabal speaks folly, his mind is busy with evil: He practices ungodliness and spreads error concerning the Lord; the hungry he leaves empty and from the thirsty he withholds water.*

Psalm 14:1a, *Nabal says in his heart, "There is no God."*

1 Samuel 25:7-8, *"I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"*

1 Samuel 25:10-11, 13, *And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?"...And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.*

- **Progressive Sanctification |** our spiritual growth takes a lifetime

GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES _____

1 Samuel 25:14-18, *But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him." Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys.*

- **God, in his providence, is moving people like the servant and Abigail to help David** as he faces the temptation to seek his own vengeance rather than trusting God.

1 Samuel 25:21-22, *Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."*

1 Samuel 25:24-25a, *"She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him."*

1 Samuel 25:28, *"Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the Lord, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live."*

1 Samuel 25:30-31, *And when the Lord has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself..."*

James 1:19-20, *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:13, *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

- **In His Providential Care |** God always provides a way of escape from temptation, and our responsibility is to take the escape God provides.

KEEP MYSELF _____

1 Samuel 25:32-35, *And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me. Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! For as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male." Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition."*

- **A surprising aspect of this story |** David is the anointed king, burning with anger, yet he listens to Abigail and allows himself to be persuaded.
- **Providence |** God actively sustaining, guiding, and providing.
- **Repentance |** the biblical word to describe what David does in this story. He is intent on sinning, but after listening to Abigail, he changes his thinking and actions.

Luke 6:40, *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.*

- **As Believers |** Jesus is our Teacher, and we are his disciples (learners).
- **God's design for us is to grow into the likeness of Jesus,** reflecting Him in every area of our lives. Spiritual growth requires a teachable, humble heart and a willingness to change.

OUR GROWTH ISN'T WITHOUT _____

1 Samuel 25:37-39, *In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. And about ten days later the Lord struck Nabal, and he died. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord who has avenged the insult I received at the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing. The Lord has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife.*

1 Peter 5:8, *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Romans 12:17-19, *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

Philippians 1:6, *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

- ***Remember that I am a work in progress***
- ***Remember that God always makes a way out of temptation***
- ***I must keep my heart humble and teachable***
- ***My spiritual growth will have setbacks***