



### #3 “The Abigail Way” (1 Samuel 25:1-42)

The Golden Rule:

"Do to others as others as you would have them do to you," Luke 6:312(NIV)

- The Golden Rule is Great Until You Are MISTREATED By Somebody

*‘The Problem With Getting Even Is That It Makes You Even’ ~Andy Stanley~*

The Take Away:

Don't Seek To Get Even – Instead Return Good For Evil

Nabal's Response:

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?” 1 Samuel 25:10-11

- Repays GOOD With Evil

David's Response:

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. 1 Samuel 25:11-12

David 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 25:21-22

- Repay EVIL With Evil

Abigail's Response:

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. And she said to her young men, “Go on before me; behold, I come after you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. <sup>20</sup> And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. 1 Samuel 25:19-20

- Repay Evil With GOOD

*“Abigail Treats David As If He Is Already The Man That She Hopes He Will Become.”*

The Abigail [Jesus] Way:

Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. (Quoting David - Psalm 34) "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; <sup>11</sup> let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:9-12

Questions For Reflections

- What Story Do You Want To Tell?
- What Would It Look Like For You To Return Good For Evil?

## Digging Deeper

For more information about Life Groups at Waipuna Chapel go to <https://waipunachapel.churchcenter.com/groups/life-groups>

The way of God isn't appealing when someone else has wronged us. Our natural urge is to try to get even. We want to wrong the people who wrong us as a way of getting payback. That seems just. It seems fair. But does it solve anything? Maybe there's a better way.

- How competitive are you? How does your level of competitiveness affect your relationships at work and with your friends and family?
- Has anyone ever gotten even with you after you wronged him or her in some way? If so, what happened?
- Read 1 Samuel 25:14–42.  
Which character in this story do you most relate to? Why?
- Read 1 Peter 3:9.  
Does the idea of blessing those who wrong you seem realistic? Why or why not?
- Is there currently a relationship in which you are tempted to repay evil with evil?
- In the future, what story do you want to tell about this period of your life when it's just a story to tell?
- When you are wronged, what can you do to follow your heavenly Father's example of returning good for evil?
- How can this group support you?

Returning good for evil is your best opportunity to be like your Father in heaven. It's how your story intersects with the greatest story ever told. God returned good for evil when he gave his Son for our sin. Following the way of God will set you free. It will set you apart. So don't settle for even. Do for others what they don't deserve.

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