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1SAMUEL

Chapter 25

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In our last teaching from **1 Samuel chapter 24** – David had an opportunity to kill Saul, but did not take it!
1. In **1Sa 24:6-7 (NKJV)** So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed." **7** David persuaded his men with *these* words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on *his* way.
 2. His men were all for it! Most likely – very few would have condemned him for killing Saul. And it would have eliminated the biggest threat in his life, but he didn't do it!
 - a) At one point in time – he loved Saul like a father.
 - b) He also had close friendship with Saul's son Jonathan, so these played a part in this decision I'm sure.
 - c) He certainly held the office of his King in high regard and paid great respect to the office.
 - d) And most importantly – he was content with leaving Saul in the hands of the Lord instead of exacting his own revenge and taking matters into his own hands.
 - (1) But in this study – we are going to see just the opposite from David!
 - (2) He comes dangerously close to doing in another man's life – the very thing he was convinced NOT TO DO in Saul's.

II. **1SA 25:1 (NKJV)** THEN SAMUEL DIED; AND THE ISRAELITES GATHERED TOGETHER AND LAMENTED FOR HIM, AND BURIED HIM AT HIS HOME IN RAMAH. AND DAVID AROSE AND WENT DOWN TO THE WILDERNESS OF PARAN.

- A. It is estimated that Samuel lived "about ninety-eight years"
1. So we have seen Samuel the prophet – (as we have studied 1 Samuel) – go from about 4-5 years old to 98 years old!
 - a) He had a long and productive life!
 - b) He built a college for the prophets.
 - c) He was a great spiritual - as well as political voice for all Israel.
 - (1) No doubt this was one funeral that was well attended.
 - (2) That is by everyone – except David!
 - (3) Saul is still alive, and as long as that is the case – David could not go.
 - (4) But he did see it as an opportunity to move!

III. **1SA 25:2-3 (NKJV)** NOW *THERE WAS A MAN IN MAON (MAW-OHN')* WHOSE BUSINESS WAS IN CARMEL (*KAR-MEL'*), AND THE MAN WAS VERY RICH. HE HAD THREE

THOUSAND SHEEP AND A THOUSAND GOATS. AND HE WAS SHEARING HIS SHEEP IN CARMEL. **3** THE NAME OF THE MAN *WAS* NABAL (*NAW-BAWL'*), AND THE NAME OF HIS WIFE ABIGAIL. AND *SHE WAS* A WOMAN OF GOOD UNDERSTANDING AND BEAUTIFUL APPEARANCE; BUT THE MAN *WAS* HARSH AND EVIL IN *HIS* DOINGS. HE *WAS OF THE HOUSE OF CALEB*.

- A. Now, I have one question for you? Why do people “**of good understanding**” continue to marry “**harsh and evil**” people?
1. In this case – the wife is the one with the brains and the beauty, but the brains must have failed her when she decided to marry Nabal!
 2. But it is still being done – right?
 - a) Isn't it amazing that people that would normally be considered very bright – get very stupid when it comes to love?
 - b) If there is EVER a time to use common sense – it is at that time, but many do not.
 - (1) Abigail is awesome – Nabal is “**harsh**” and “**evil in his doings**” – maybe that is how he got his “**three thousand sheep and a thousand goats**”.
 3. What is sad to me is that he is from the house of Caleb!
 - a) Remember him? He was one of only 2 of his generation (Joshua also) that actually entered the Promised Land because of his faithfulness.
 - b) He was one of the spy's that was sent in to spy out the land and had the faith to believe they could over-come!
 - (1) I guess it just goes to show that faith, courage, and intelligence are not automatically inherited!

IV. **1SA 25:4-11 (NKJV)** WHEN DAVID HEARD IN THE WILDERNESS THAT NABAL WAS SHEARING HIS SHEEP, **5** DAVID SENT TEN YOUNG MEN; AND DAVID SAID TO THE YOUNG MEN, "GO UP TO CARMEL, GO TO NABAL, AND GREET HIM IN MY NAME. **6** AND THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO HIM WHO LIVES *IN PROSPERITY*: 'PEACE *BE* TO YOU, PEACE TO YOUR HOUSE, AND PEACE TO ALL THAT YOU HAVE! **7** NOW I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE SHEARERS. YOUR SHEPHERDS WERE WITH US, AND WE DID NOT HURT THEM, NOR WAS THERE ANYTHING MISSING FROM THEM ALL THE WHILE THEY WERE IN CARMEL. **8** 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 COMES TO YOUR HAND TO YOUR SERVANTS AND TO YOUR SON DAVID.' " **9** SO WHEN DAVID'S YOUNG MEN CAME, THEY SPOKE TO NABAL ACCORDING TO ALL THESE WORDS IN THE NAME OF DAVID, AND WAITED. **10** THEN NABAL ANSWERED DAVID'S SERVANTS, AND SAID, "WHO *IS* DAVID, AND WHO *IS* THE SON OF JESSE? THERE ARE MANY SERVANTS NOWADAYS WHO BREAK AWAY EACH ONE FROM HIS MASTER. **11** SHALL I THEN TAKE MY BREAD AND MY WATER AND MY MEAT THAT I HAVE KILLED FOR MY SHEARERS, AND GIVE *IT* TO MEN WHEN I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY *ARE* FROM?"

- A. David and his men needed some food supplies and felt it was a reasonable thing to ask of Nabal – since he had respected and protected Nabal's men the entire time they were with them.
1. For some folks it is much easier to take than it is to give – and so it was with Nabal.

2. David's army's protection – helped him and his men, but when he had opportunity to give back – he refused.
 - a) Notice – David did not set an amount: **8 ... Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.**
 - b) The wise thing would have been to return the favor with gratitude – but then again – we have already seen that “wisdom” was not Nabal's strong suit.

V. **1SA 25:12-13 (NKJV) SO DAVID'S YOUNG MEN TURNED ON THEIR HEELS AND WENT BACK; AND THEY CAME AND TOLD HIM ALL THESE WORDS. 13 THEN DAVID SAID TO HIS MEN, "EVERY MAN GIRD ON HIS SWORD." SO EVERY MAN GIRDED ON HIS SWORD, AND DAVID ALSO GIRDED ON HIS SWORD. AND ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED MEN WENT WITH DAVID, AND TWO HUNDRED STAYED WITH THE SUPPLIES.**

A. This doesn't sit too well with David!

1. To him – this is an act of war and he is going to see to it that Nabal pays for this mistake.
 - a) Did you notice there seems to be a stark contrast between his attitude towards Saul and his attitude towards Nabal?
 - b) And if you think about it – what Nabal has done (though not bright) – pales in comparison to what Saul has done to him.

VI. **1SA 25:14-17 (NKJV) NOW ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN TOLD ABIGAIL, NABAL'S WIFE, SAYING, "LOOK, DAVID SENT MESSENGERS FROM THE WILDERNESS TO GREET OUR MASTER; AND HE REVILED THEM. 15 BUT THE MEN *WERE* VERY GOOD TO US, AND WE WERE NOT HURT, NOR DID WE MISS ANYTHING AS LONG AS WE ACCOMPANIED THEM, WHEN WE WERE IN THE FIELDS. 16 THEY WERE A WALL TO US BOTH BY NIGHT AND DAY, ALL THE TIME WE WERE WITH THEM KEEPING THE SHEEP. 17 NOW THEREFORE, KNOW AND CONSIDER WHAT YOU WILL DO, FOR HARM IS DETERMINED AGAINST OUR MASTER AND AGAINST ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD. FOR HE IS SUCH A SCOUNDREL THAT ONE CANNOT SPEAK TO HIM."**

A. I am only going to stop here to ask one question: “Are we someone that people can talk to?”

1. If we are not careful we can put up barriers that can keep people away.
2. We must remember that just because we have the money or the power – like Nabal did, doesn't mean we have the corner on the truth!
3. If we become such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to us – it is likely that we will become just the kind of person Nabal was – a scoundrel that is harsh and evil and no one can speak to!
 - a) And THAT is a recipe for disaster.

VII. **1SA 25:18-22 (NKJV) THEN ABIGAIL MADE HASTE AND TOOK TWO HUNDRED LOAVES OF BREAD, TWO SKINS OF WINE, FIVE SHEEP ALREADY DRESSED, FIVE SEAHs OF ROASTED *GRAIN*, ONE HUNDRED CLUSTERS OF RAISINS, AND TWO HUNDRED CAKES OF FIGS, AND LOADED *THEM* ON DONKEYS. 19 AND SHE SAID TO HER SERVANTS, "GO ON BEFORE ME; SEE, I AM COMING AFTER YOU." BUT SHE DID NOT TELL HER HUSBAND NABAL. 20 SO IT WAS, *AS* SHE RODE ON THE DONKEY, THAT SHE WENT DOWN UNDER COVER OF THE HILL; AND THERE WERE DAVID AND**

HIS MEN, COMING DOWN TOWARD HER, AND SHE MET THEM. **21** NOW DAVID HAD SAID, "SURELY IN VAIN I HAVE PROTECTED ALL THAT THIS *FELLOW* HAS IN THE WILDERNESS, SO THAT NOTHING WAS MISSED OF ALL THAT *BELONGS* TO HIM. AND HE HAS REPAID ME EVIL FOR GOOD. **22** MAY GOD DO SO, AND MORE ALSO, TO THE ENEMIES OF DAVID, IF I LEAVE ONE MALE OF ALL WHO *BELONG* TO HIM BY MORNING LIGHT."

A. Do you see David's intentions? He plans to wipe this guy out!

1. **1Th 5:15 (NKJV)** See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
 - a) Perhaps anger is just as strong an emotion as lust and can therefore cloud sound reasoning!
 - b) Perhaps when it comes to matters of the heart – whether it is marrying the wrong person or being angry enough to want to kill someone – it is THEN that it is most important to turn those emotions over to the Lord!
 - (1) Sometimes we need a little help with that..

VIII. **1SA 25:23-31 (NKJV)** NOW WHEN ABIGAIL SAW DAVID, SHE DISMOUNTED QUICKLY FROM THE DONKEY, FELL ON HER FACE BEFORE DAVID, AND BOWED DOWN TO THE GROUND. **24** SO SHE FELL AT HIS FEET AND SAID: "ON ME, MY LORD, *ON ME LET THIS INIQUITY BE!* AND PLEASE LET YOUR MAIDSERVANT SPEAK IN YOUR EARS, AND HEAR THE WORDS OF YOUR MAIDSERVANT. **25** PLEASE, LET NOT MY LORD REGARD THIS SCOUNDREL NABAL. FOR AS HIS NAME *IS*, SO *IS* HE (NABAL MEANS "FOOL"): NABAL *IS* HIS NAME, AND FOLLY *IS* WITH HIM! BUT I, YOUR MAIDSERVANT, DID NOT SEE THE YOUNG MEN OF MY LORD WHOM YOU SENT. **26** NOW THEREFORE, MY LORD, *AS* THE LORD LIVES AND *AS* YOUR SOUL LIVES, SINCE THE LORD HAS HELD YOU BACK FROM COMING TO BLOODSHED AND FROM AVENGING YOURSELF WITH YOUR OWN HAND, NOW THEN, LET YOUR ENEMIES AND THOSE WHO SEEK HARM FOR MY LORD BE AS NABAL. **27** AND NOW THIS PRESENT WHICH YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS BROUGHT TO MY LORD, LET IT BE GIVEN TO THE YOUNG MEN WHO FOLLOW MY LORD. **28** PLEASE FORGIVE THE TRESPASS OF YOUR MAIDSERVANT. FOR THE LORD WILL CERTAINLY MAKE FOR MY LORD AN ENDURING HOUSE, BECAUSE MY LORD FIGHTS THE BATTLES OF THE LORD, AND EVIL IS NOT FOUND IN YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR DAYS. **29** YET A MAN HAS RISEN TO PURSUE YOU AND SEEK YOUR LIFE, BUT THE LIFE OF MY LORD SHALL BE BOUND IN THE BUNDLE OF THE LIVING WITH THE LORD YOUR GOD; AND THE LIVES OF YOUR ENEMIES HE SHALL SLING OUT, *AS FROM* THE POCKET OF A SLING. **30** AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, WHEN THE LORD HAS DONE FOR MY LORD ACCORDING TO ALL THE GOOD THAT HE HAS SPOKEN CONCERNING YOU, AND HAS APPOINTED YOU RULER OVER ISRAEL, **31** THAT THIS WILL BE NO GRIEF TO YOU, NOR OFFENSE OF HEART TO MY LORD, EITHER THAT YOU HAVE SHED BLOOD WITHOUT CAUSE, OR THAT MY LORD HAS AVENGED HIMSELF. BUT WHEN THE LORD HAS DEALT WELL WITH MY LORD, THEN REMEMBER YOUR MAIDSERVANT."

A. I told you she was one smart lady! And pretty too!

1. Bottom line is that she tells David that when he becomes king – he doesn't want to have this shedding of innocent blood on his hands.

- a) Now – Nabal might have been a scoundrel and not too bright, but it was his choice to give or not to give. It was not enough reason for David to kill him!
- b) But unlike Nabal – David is willing to listen.

IX. **1SA 25:32-38 (NKJV)** THEN DAVID SAID TO ABIGAIL: "BLESSED **IS** THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, WHO SENT YOU THIS DAY TO MEET ME! **33** AND BLESSED **IS** YOUR ADVICE AND BLESSED **ARE** YOU, BECAUSE YOU HAVE KEPT ME THIS DAY FROM COMING TO BLOODSHED AND FROM AVENGING MYSELF WITH MY OWN HAND. **34** FOR INDEED, **AS** THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL LIVES, WHO HAS KEPT ME BACK FROM HURTING YOU, UNLESS YOU HAD HURRIED AND COME TO MEET ME, SURELY BY MORNING LIGHT NO MALES WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT TO NABAL!" **35** SO DAVID RECEIVED FROM HER HAND WHAT SHE HAD BROUGHT HIM, AND SAID TO HER, "GO UP IN PEACE TO YOUR HOUSE. SEE, I HAVE HEEDED YOUR VOICE AND RESPECTED YOUR PERSON." **36** NOW ABIGAIL WENT TO NABAL, AND THERE HE WAS, HOLDING A FEAST IN HIS HOUSE, LIKE THE FEAST OF A KING. AND NABAL'S HEART **WAS** MERRY WITHIN HIM, FOR HE **WAS** VERY DRUNK; THEREFORE SHE TOLD HIM NOTHING, LITTLE OR MUCH, UNTIL MORNING LIGHT. **37** SO IT WAS, IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE WINE HAD GONE FROM NABAL, AND HIS WIFE HAD TOLD HIM THESE THINGS, THAT HIS HEART DIED WITHIN HIM, AND HE BECAME **LIKE** A STONE. **38** THEN IT HAPPENED, **AFTER** ABOUT TEN DAYS, THAT THE LORD STRUCK NABAL, AND HE DIED.

- A. **Rom 12:19 (NKJV)** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but **rather** give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.
- 1. David did not need to exact vengeance. Had his anger given way to prayer – he would have remembered that.
 - 2. He would have been able to apply the same spiritual principles to Nabal that he had to Saul.
 - a) The next time we are angry or too emotional to think we need to remember this! PRAY.

X. CONCLUSION

- A. **1Sa 25:39 (NKJV)** So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed **be** the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head." And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife. **40** When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife." **41** Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." **42** So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife. **43** David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives. **44** But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti (*pal-tee'*) the son of Laish, who **was** from Gallim (*gal-leem'*).

- 1. Now we do not have to speak about all the subtleties in these few verses, but it would seem to me that both David and Abigail came out pretty well in this

marriage.

- a) Both are people of character and willing to “talk” as well as “listen”.
 - (1) Something Abigail did not have in her previous marriage.
 - (2) David gets a beautiful as well as a smart wife, not to mention (most likely) all of Nabal’s estate!