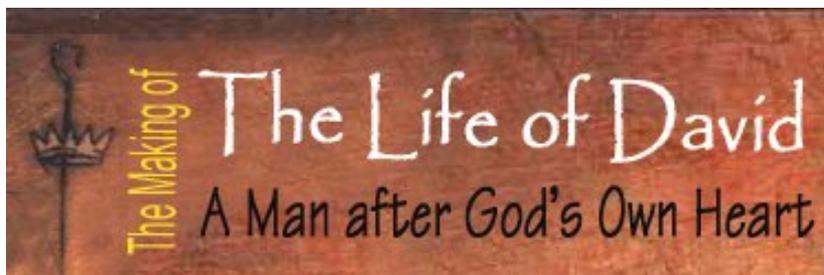




# 1 Samuel 25

*Death to Self - Part 2* Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 2006



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There is a story told of a very decorated soldier. On the battlefield, he was amazing. Operated as a scout – he fought in many battles – yet he was never wounded. Had an uncanny sense about him to see the traps of the enemy and avoid them.

As he finished his tour of duty, the local paper reported how he had been ambushed by some kids with snow balls, then seeking to avoid continued blows, slipped on some ice and broke his leg and scrapped himself up

**Much as I will tell you of the story** – true or not...don't know

I will tell you this – that scenario has been lived out many times in Christians lives. When in the heat of battle with the enemy, satan testing, trying them – they have overcome. Then when the dust settles, they end up falling and failing perhaps in the very same area satan had attacked before....but just in a “smaller way”

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# I. The Setting

## 1. What is happening with David

### a. God is shaping David, forming him

i) 17 year preparation time- shaping

### b. Last week – lesson in dying to self

i) Opportunity to take into his own hand

ii) Didn't...surrendered to God, left to Him

iii) Wonderful...exciting – needed for all God has

## 2. Introduce you to today's players

### a. Nabal – rich man in his community

i) Not rich enough to be in fortune 500 of day

A. But – rich in his community – powerful

ii) Harsh and evil in his doings – hard, bad

iii) His name – literally means “fool”

A. Real name? Probably nickname – adopted

iv) Bible tells us much about fools

A. **Proverbs 10:23; 12:15; 18:2, 6; 28:26**

B. **Psalm 14:1** – key verse

C. Many more...but know Biblically there are

D. Know this – Nabal is one

### b. Abigail – Nabal's wife

i) Truly a mixed match marriage

ii) Marriages arranged in that day...here poorly

iii) Good understanding – opposite Nabal's folly

iv) Beautiful in appearance

v) Godly – as you will see

vi) Truly a proverbs 31 woman

### c. David and his men

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i) Wall day and night – time, cost David

### **3. Introduce the situation**

#### **a. Nabal is shearing his sheep**

- i) Harvest time, abundance, celebration
- ii) For many, it was sort of a “payday” as well

#### **b. David sends men – to receive from this**

- i) Understand was normal, right for David to do so
- ii) As Americans, in 21<sup>st</sup> cent – far removed from the culture in that day – key, to get the culture
  - A. You can get it from the text, if pay attention
- iii) Obvious as you read over – expected, right
  - A. Perhaps somewhat like tipping in today
- iv) Also note – David’s request filled with extreme courtesy, respect and humility

## **II. The Temptation, the Test**

### **1. Nabal spurns David’s men**

- a. Doesn’t just refuse – which is wrong
- b. Adds to the refusal a heaping of insult
  - i) Like not only not tipping, but spitting on bill holder

### **2. David Responds - prepares to attack, wipe them out**

- a. Problem – we read this without understanding
  - b. Accuse David of killing cockroaches w/ shotgun
  - c. Understand–culturally anticipated that David would
    - i) Again – just read the text carefully.
    - ii) Notice servant with Abigail – they expect such a response from David...right, understandable
    - iii) Perhaps like slapping with a glove in days of old - A duel is expected
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iv) Like – someone insulting your wife

### **3. Abigail's prepares to help intercession**

- a. Hears of what happened – servants tell her
- b. Prepares a generous gift & comes to David

### **4. Scene flips back to David**

- a. Important Need to see this unfold in David
- b. Abigail is an amazing lady, worthy of study**
  - i) But – not where we are...even text is
- c. We are focusing on what is happening w/David**
  - i) Text goes there as well – shows us David knows dealing with someone who has done him wrong, when he did them right.
  - ii) Stop. Go over to Chap 24:17 – see where David lived out Godly character in such an area

### **5. Abigail's intercession**

- a. Takes responsibility for insult v.23-25, 28a**
- b. She reminds David of what God has done - v.26**
  - i) Kept from bloodshed, vengeance
  - ii) Prob. speaking of David's handling of Saul
  - iii) Interesting – people have heard....
  - iv) Builds on that lesson – be as Nabal
- c. She reminds David of what God will do – v.28-29**
  - i) Building a house, protecting, preserving
- d. Calls David to see what this act of self-will could do**
  - i) It would be a grief...offence, a problem
  - ii) To do so – would hurt, taint him

### **6. David responds...learns**

- a. Recognizes God in this – God sent her**
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- i) See's God's hand in protecting him
- b. Recognizes that this is good advice – follows
- c. Respects Abigail's person

### **III. Outcome**

#### **1. David does what is Godly**

- a. Goes above what is culturally acceptable

#### **2. God takes care of David...kills Nabal**

- a. David left it to the Lord & the Lord took care of it
- b. This is what we saw last week – **Rom 12** 📖

#### **3. God takes care of Abigail...marries David**

- a. More on in a future study
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# Conclusion

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## Lessons

- Again – God is behind this, shaping David
  - b. #1 – Previous victories don't insure future victories**
    - i) Because David handled it right in chap 24, doesn't mean he will in chapter 25
    - ii) Yesterday's victories can be today's temptations
    - iii) Victories in Christ – require maintenance
  - c. #2 – Dying to self is needed...in deeper ways**
    - i) Key character God is working on – self denial
      - A. Surrender to God – leaving it with God
      - B. Luke 9 📖 - die to self
    - ii) Dying to self is needed in big things
    - iii) Dying to self is needed in small things
    - iv) Might not see it so clearly...but is what is here
    - v) God is taking self denial to another level
      - A. One thing with Saul – king...but Nabal – fool
    - vi) Warning – possible to succeed in big things...and lose it in small things
    - vii) Are you willing to die to self in all things?
  - 4. Important? YES – God is seeking to mold a man, who will submit in all things Acts 13:22**
    - a. Many are the people who submit in some...
    - b. But God is looking, molding those who do all
    - c. Key for little things...or they will defile
      - **Eccl 10:1** 📖
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## Gospel

### Question – are you a Nabal or a David?

- Nabal is a fool – self willed, pursuing
  - Fool...says no to God
  - Are you saying no to God? Handling own life?
  - You will die...God will judge
- Are you a David...surrendering to Him, trusting
  - To this God is calling you today
  - For this, Jesus died on the cross

