

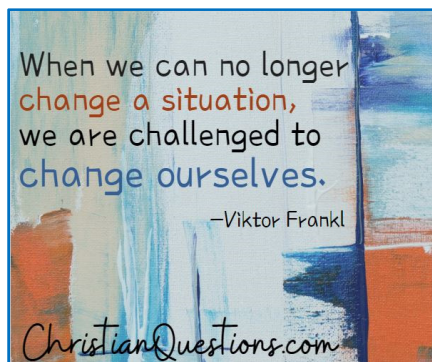


What Does it Mean to be a Warrior for Truth?

David and Abigail

Warriors of God Series

Proverbs 25:11,12: (NASB) *¹¹Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. ¹²Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprov-er to a listening ear.*



The spectacular biblical account of David reveals him as a warrior for God, as he protected God's principles and righteousness. It also reveals David as a man of mighty faults. He committed many grievous errors with sad consequences. Most importantly, David was also a man who never stopped trying to do better and inspire the people he led. He truly was God's warrior, a man after God's own heart. Know this; true warriors for God never were and should never be limited to just men. Abigail is one of the treasured women of the Bible who was also one of God's warriors. When faced with potential slaughter, she calmly deescalated serious tensions, saving many lives. Her love for God was unmistakable. The example of her behavior under pressure commands attention and respect. This beautiful woman is an inspiring example.



I am here to represent Abigail's compelling story that has a lot of takeaways for both women and men who are trying to be more pleasing to God.

Today's primary lesson: **Recognize your Abigail and listen well.** We only have a few episodes on women in the Bible: Queen Esther (Episodes 1057 and 1063) and Mary and Martha, the sisters of Jesus' friend Lazarus (Episode 1049). While studying the life of David for this current series, I was excited to learn that he meets someone who pretty much stopped him in his tracks. Timewise, he meets her before he becomes king.

The four important figures in this story are Abigail, David, King Saul and Nabal.

recap
recap

King Saul was Israel's first king. We are dropping into the story after Saul had disobeyed God and was destined to lose the throne. Saul had become more and more paranoid, wanting to know who God would make king over him.

As a young man, David was in Saul's court, playing the harp for him to soothe his nerves. He soon became an armor bearer and then a prominent warrior in Saul's army. David defeated enemy after enemy and become very popular with the people. Rather than being proud of this talented general under his command, Saul became intensely jealous and sought to kill David on several occasions.

In the first of our Warrior of God Series, Episode #1129, we talked about the beautiful lessons from the covenant friendship of David and Saul's son, Jonathan.

To set the stage for Abigail's wisdom and courage, let's first establish David's preparation experiences.

1. The power of friendship and like focus David learned from Jonathan.

David is in hiding to avoid the wrath and madness of Saul:

1 Samuel 23:13-14, 16-18: (NASB) ¹³Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit. ¹⁴David stayed in the wilderness in the strongholds, and remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

Jonathan believed in David's right to the throne and was loyal to always protect God's anointed:

¹⁶And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. ¹⁷Thus he said to him, Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also. ¹⁸So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord; and David stayed at Horesh while Jonathan went to his house.

Being the king's son, Jonathan grew up understanding a sense of royalty, military strategy, trust and loyalty to others. He probably taught all of these qualities to his best friend, David.



**David and Jonathan both wanted the same thing –
to follow the will of God and to protect Israel.
The ability to rely on another of like mind would become
a key to success in David's future experiences.**

David spent years in exile in the wilderness in southern Judah, hiding from Saul. Throughout this period of excessive hardship, he never sought to hasten Saul's removal from the throne. When presented with several opportunities to kill Saul, David trusted God's timing over his own opportunity.

2. David's preparation experience: The establishment of a godly conscience over emotion when you are the one who has the power.

1 Samuel 24:1-7: (NASB) ¹Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi. ²Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. ³He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

Saul was off-guard! David could have ended his exile right then and there. He could have said to himself: *I don't want to live in a cave anymore. If I kill Saul, I will be king.* But did he?



Please check out our CQ Kids videos: Who Was David? (Parts I and II)
ChristianQuestions.com/youtube

Opportunity knocks! David will certainly take what is offered, but not the way we would think he would:

⁴The men of David said to him, Behold, this is the day of which the Lord said to you, Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you. Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly. (This was his opportunity to kill Saul. David was faced with the question of whether or not this was God's will.) ⁵It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. ⁶So 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. ⁷David 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.

David capitalized on the opportunity, only he saw and followed a HIGHER opportunity than how his men suggested.



How did David know this extreme coincidence of Saul picking this exact cave was not God's way of handing Saul over in order to begin his anointed role as king?

Does this give us any insight as to whether we should go left or right when looking to follow God's will when something is right in front of us?

Do we look at our experiences in life and put *our preferences* on God's providence and bend *our will* towards our own desires?

God's providence has a higher scriptural concept and plan than our preferences. We have to remain in accordance with the principles of God's providence. We want to follow God's providence according to scriptural principles and not our own preference.

David showed Saul the piece of the robe he cut off, demonstrating he had the ability to kill him. David's message: *I will not - I cannot - violate the sanctity of God's anointing.* David respected and understood this was because HE was anointed. He was delivered from Goliath's hand and had been sanctioned to take care of Israel, but not at the expense of King Saul's anointing. He was not going to interfere with God's arrangement and did not put his preference before God's providence.



1 Samuel 24:10,15: (NASB) ¹⁰Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed. ¹⁵The Lord therefore be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.

David explained God's providence to Saul.

Later, David again had an opportunity to take Saul's life but instead took his spear and pitcher to prove his position. David told Saul safely from the other side of the valley that David could have killed him but did not because he would not touch the Lord's anointed. David showed profound faithfulness to God's providence and not his own preference.



David was only motivated by that which God willed.

Any opportunity that gave him his freedom or rights was shunned. Instead, the opportunity to stand for something higher was taken, even if it meant sacrificing personal gain.

David's first preparatory lesson had to do with the preservation of his own life. The second preparatory lesson had to do with the preservation of another's life.

The preparations are expanding. Once Abigail comes on the scene, this will become clearer.

3. David's preparation experience: Using circumstances to focus on the preservation of many lives - those of his men and the people of Israel.



Larry McClellan, King David of Israel by Albert O. Hudson

- For the next two years, David was on the move all the time, changing his headquarters from place to place to avoid detection by Saul's men. He went from Adullam to Hereth, from Hereth to Keilah, from Keilah to Ziph. Then on to Maon, Engedi by the Dead Sea and back to Ziph again. All these places were within 20 or 30 miles of each other; and it is possible that his followers who had now increased to six hundred, were scattered over the whole area and formed an underground movement within the boundaries of Saul's kingdom. The hearts of the people were steadily turning more and more toward David.*

What a powerful thought - *The hearts of the people were turning more and more toward David.* David was treating the people with great respect.

David's time in exile while being hunted by the jealous King Saul was a vital time of development. Due to those awful days of running for his life, David knew the lay of the land and it would later pay off in a great way.

Another giant preparation emerges from David's experiences.



Once becoming king, David would vanquish all the enemies of Israel. By knowing the lay of the land, as a result of his exile, he would have an enormous tactical advantage.

This was God's providence on behalf of His anointed.



As David was defeating all the enemies of Israel, he could look back and say: *Hey, if I would not have been chased all over this country years ago, I could never be this successful now...Praise God!* No wonder he wrote so many songs of praise.

We just looked at the giant preparation for David, now here it is for us:



For us - The protection of God's people:

We, too, must know the hiding places of refuge that our God amply provides. Life is so challenging, and we need His peace and His safety.

Psalm 91:4: (NASB) *He will cover you with His pinions (the outer part of a bird's wings, including the flight feathers), and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark (a defensive wall or safeguard).*

God does cover us, even throughout these issues of life:

- ⇒ Despondent feelings
- ⇒ Financial worries
- ⇒ Lack of time to do things we feel we need to do
- ⇒ Emotional and physical pains of illness
- ⇒ Peripheral pain of those we love
- ⇒ Living through the uncertainties of a partially-unknown future

David sought refuge under God's wings. That is something we need to learn as well.

David had been collecting many experiences that taught him to handle kingship. Let's learn with him.

David cared for the people of Israel.

What was David's reaction when his protective care was mocked?

Rage is a very unpredictable human emotion. Cain raged against and killed his brother Abel in cold blood, just for giving a more acceptable sacrifice. How did that happen? Despite David's closeness to God, we have a dramatic story of his own rage exploding into potentially deadly consequences.

David's time in exile was not just a time to hide. Because the people of Israel were so important to him, he found ways to help them as he hid. His 600 followers acted as bodyguards to the flocks and herds in the area.



It is sheep-shearing season, the harvest time for a sheep rancher, so it was a time for great celebration and feasting.

1 Samuel 25:2-8: (NASB) ²Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel ³(now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in his dealings, and he was a Calebite - a descendant of Caleb), ⁴that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.



The name Nabal means "fool."

The name Abigail means "source of joy."

Undoubtedly David's men were aware of the shearing as they were tasked with the shepherd's protection:

⁵So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name; ⁶and thus you shall say, Have a long life, peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. ⁷Now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, nor have they missed anything all the days they were in Carmel. ⁸Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.

David told his young men the words to respectfully repeat to Nabal - *let my young men find favor in your eyes.*



Observations about what David did right:

1. He sent 10 men, not an entourage, which was enough to carry back a modest amount of provisions. They were to be courteous, reasonable and to request only what the owner thought equal with the protection services rendered. This protection helped to ensure a profitable shearing season.
2. He waited until the time of feasting, when food was plentiful, and the property owner would traditionally share liberally with the people around him.
3. They asked Nabal how well his people got along with those in David's camp. Nabal's shepherds enjoyed the protection of David's men from bandits and probably marauding Philistines.



Nabal celebrated sheep shearing at a time when the rest of Israel was mourning the death of the esteemed prophet Samuel (**1 Samuel 25:1**) which was likely not in good taste. This would be further evidence of his base character.

David was approaching this culturally-appropriate opportunity with great respect, humility and well-trained men.

1 Samuel 25:9-11: (NASB) ⁹When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David's name; then they waited. (Nabal arrogantly makes them wait.) ¹⁰But Nabal answered David's servants and said, Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master. ¹¹Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?



David was so popular that it would be nearly impossible for him not to know who he was. Nabal was insulting him, implying he was nothing but a rebellious, runaway slave. Notice Nabal's lack of giving honor to God when he says, *Shall I then take MY bread and MY water and MY meat that I have slaughtered for MY shearers...* We can see, as the Scriptures say, he is a fool. (1 Samuel 25:25).

David reacted with anger and vengeance, ready to slaughter Nabal and his household:

1 Samuel 25:12-13: (NASB) ¹²*So David's young men retraced their way and went back; and they came and told him according to all these words. ¹³David said to his men, Each of you gird on his sword. So each man girded on his sword. And David also girded on his sword, and about four hundred men went up behind David while two hundred stayed with the baggage.*

Next, David rationalized his anger and promised cruel retribution:

1 Samuel 25:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*Now David had said, Surely in vain I have guarded all that this man has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has returned me evil for good. ²²May God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, (meaning, May God bless all of my enemies with abundance as Nabal has been blessed) if by morning I leave as much as one male of any who belong to him.*

David absolutely caved into his rage. This is contrary to all of his previous preparation lessons.

When people in our world today are frustrated and angry, and they are protesting and violence erupts, people say, "You can't blame them." Well, they CAN be blamed because nobody should ever be violent. We can understand the anger, but it is never an excuse for bad behavior. David had that same kind of anger: *My men are hungry; they worked hard for months to protect your men and your flocks. This is how it is supposed to work!* He overreacted. There was justification in his anger but not in his overreaction to the anger.

David compassionately spared Saul's life when Saul had been harassing and trying to kill him for years. Nabal, a man David never met, slighted him, and David was ready to show no mercy on him and his household. How is such a dramatic change possible?



Observations:

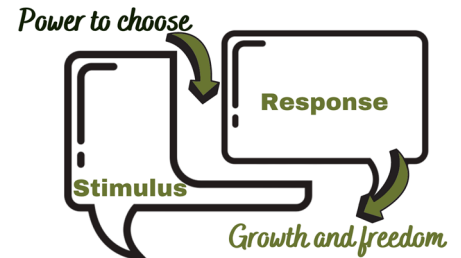
- Perhaps David perceived Saul as his equal or superior as anointed kings and Nabal as his inferior. *Do we make allowances for some but not for others?*
- *He has returned me evil for good* - David used this to justify the death of the household, but this would have been murder. *Do we justify or rationalize our bad behavior?*
- Nabal's sin could have caused David to sin. David was responding sinfully to the sin of another. *Do our actions open a door for others to sin?*

David had a choice and stepped through a "door of intention." As he stepped through that door, it turned into a door of preparation and then of action.



Modern Examples: This about road rage or being put on hold and routed through an automated phone system. We must keep things in check.

*Between stimulus and response there is a space.
In that space is our power to choose our response.
In our response lies our growth and our freedom.
— Viktor Frankl*



HOMEWORK



Viktor Frankl was a holocaust survivor who became an educator and author. This quote applies to so many different scenarios. If we can just memorize this quote and apply it, we could overcome A LOT. It helps gets our minds wrapped around righteousness.

Finally, Abigail appears. She finds out what just happened and the truth about David's men:

1 Samuel 25:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, and he scorned them. ¹⁵Yet the men were very good to us, and we were not insulted, nor did we miss anything as long as we went about with them, while we were in the fields. ¹⁶They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep. (Nabal's men reported to Abigail how David's men protected them.) ¹⁷Now therefore, know and consider what you should do, for evil is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that no one can speak to him.

Nabal's servants told Abigail her husband was a worthless man and pleaded with her to help!



Godly actions are always appropriate.

With Saul's madness, David stood up to his own frustration at being exiled, by taking action to protect God's anointed. He never took vengeance.

With Nabal, David sought evil retribution over a broken agreement and insults. In his rage,

David did not apply a godly response to a common man.



1. Do we get angry when people do not react the way we think they should?
2. Can we fall prey to personal fleshly insults we do not deserve?
3. Do we use them as a rationalization to drive us to sin?



Let's look at Saul. Saul loved David, but overcome with pride and jealousy, he sought to kill David.

Let's look at David. David was hunted, hiding, weary, hungry, but every time he stood up in faith with God's spirit. He refused to take vengeance on Saul when he had the opportunity. And yet, this incredibly patient and humble man was put off guard by an unexpected personal insult by Nabal.

THIS CAN HAPPEN TO US. We can get angry when people do not react the way we think they should. As hard as we sacrifice, we can fall prey to personal insults we do not deserve, and that can drive us to sinful reactions.

HOMEWORK



Remember our homework assignment!

Between stimulus and response there is a space.

In that space is our power to choose our response.

In our response lies our growth and our freedom. — Viktor Frankl

David needed that space. We do not want to be that person who causes someone go down the wrong road. We do not want to be an "en-NABEL-er!"

Unfortunately, David is not hesitating to burn this whole thing to the ground because of an insult from a fool!

**Rage is driving David to commit a horrible sin.
What can be said or done to diffuse such anger?**

Because we all have the ability to rage over things, we all need to pay attention here. Even though David had done an honorable job of caring for his men and for the people of Israel while in exile, his rage at Nabal put his base human nature on display. Like David, we all have that same potential.

Nabal was a wealthy man, while David lived in caves. David was very much a man of honor, and we can plainly see that Nabal was not. Could his wealth have destroyed his humanity?

While wealth can certainly bring advantages of freedom and control in our lives, it comes with a cost. Research has linked having riches, with less empathy for people, as well as a feeling of entitlement to be a detriment to others. Wealth is also associated with unethical tendencies. This is shown in studies of shoplifting and tax data from the Internal Revenue Service.

Nabal was a selfish, stingy and wealthy man whose heartlessness was about to get everyone killed. Unlike her foolish husband, Abigail had a godly heart and character.



Abigail is one of only three women the Bible describes as having a beautiful appearance. The others are Jacob's wife, Rachel, in Genesis 29:17, and Queen Esther in Esther 2:7.



Abigail calmly takes **ACTION**. This implies she had a well-thought out plan:

1 Samuel 25:18,19,23-25: (NASB) ¹⁸Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread and two jugs of wine and five sheep already prepared and five measures of roasted grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. ¹⁹She said to her young men, Go on before me; behold, I am coming after you. But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

She makes a correct **ASSESSMENT**:

- Abigail perceived that her foolish husband created a dangerous scenario for the entire household.

Proverbs 25:19: (KJV) *Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth and a foot out of joint.*

- She did not try to appeal to her husband, knowing it would be useless and he would just get angrier and dig in on his position. This displayed brilliance and profound courage.
- Immediate but thoughtful and methodical action was required. No worrying, just doing!

Being able to *assess* a situation well shows wisdom. Wisdom is hard to find. Abigail was displaying a wise ability to counteract what was going to be tragic and traumatic.

²³When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face before David and bowed herself to the ground. ²⁴She fell at his feet and said, On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant (Abigail displayed humility and wisdom, just like Nabal's men did with David). ²⁵Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name and folly (fool) is with him; but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

She has a correct **PLAN**:

- She personally and humbly delivers the food.
- She is unafraid to meet David and hundreds of his men. She puts herself in a dangerous position. Somehow, she trusted him not to hurt her or allow her to be hurt. Whatever *young men* (verse 19) in her household went ahead of her would be no match for David and his men.
- She humbly mediates and apologizes for her husband's bad judgment, admitting he is a fool.
- She says something really unexpected - *On me alone, my lord, be the blame*. Abigail is completely innocent and yet accepts 100 percent of the blame. By doing this, she not only saves Nabal and his household, but she also saves David.



This reminds us of Jesus, as he was 100 percent innocent, yet he accepted all of our sins as a ransom substitution.



For more on the ransom, please see the CQ Bonus video: [What Did Jesus' Death and Resurrection Do? ChristianQuestions.com/youtube](https://www.ChristianQuestions.com/youtube)

Paraphrasing Abigail: It is you and me here. Forget Nabel. I am here to show you the humility of this household. Forget what you've seen. Your intentions need to look at me and how I am representing this house.

1 Samuel 25:26-31: (NASB) ²⁶Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, since the LORD has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal.

Back in 1 Samuel 26:22, David said if he did not strike Nabal down, then may all of his enemies be blessed as Nabal was. Here Abigail is speaking in the same way, saying may all David's enemies be as Nabal, meaning unable to do David any harm.

Abigail talks to David using the same language he used with his men. This is significant. She used David's same thought process and approach that caused him to derail, to set him back on the rails.



²⁷Now let this gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord. ²⁸Please forgive the transgression of your maidservant...

Though she did no wrong, she took full responsibility (absorbed the blame) for Nabal's poor behavior and made it right:

...for the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil will not be found in you all your days. ²⁹Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling (Abigail is showing her honor and respect for David because she realizes who he is). ³⁰And when the LORD does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel, ³¹this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself. When the LORD deals well with my lord, then remember your maidservant.

She says the correct WORDS:

- If she had been there when the men asked for provisions, they would have received them.
- She predicts David will be the king of Israel; God would exalt him.





- She reminds David that he is fighting the Lord's battles.
- She attributes all the good that would come to David to be from God.
- She helped David to know he was in God's care. Rage-filled murder would be an action against God.
- *But the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling* - she uses imagery to remind him of his victory over Goliath, won because of his unfailing focus on God and His principles.
- *When you have success, remember me.* And he does which we will see at the end of the story.

The relationship of mutual trust between David and Jonathan prepared David to receive Abigail. Abigail approached David with mutual trust. They had the same objectives, and she knew he was going to become king. Jonathan's friendship and influence on David made Abigail's influence much easier to recognize. Both Jonathan and Abigail were there to protect David.

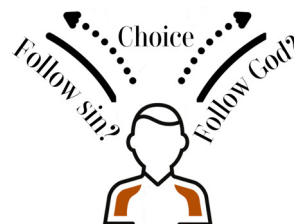


We know Abigail is smart and diplomatic, but will this work with a man like David?

**Abigail met David with courage and respect.
Would David be a man after God's heart or his own?**

Abigail's attitude, actions and words provided the needed space for David to snap out of his rage. Nabal had acted out of arrogance and ego, and David had chosen to follow that same path. It was now up to David to decide how to lead his men. He could lead them into sin or to follow God's providence.

David had a choice. We always have a choice. David was faced with what truly was a life or death circumstance.



When we can no longer change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.
— Viktor Frankl

That is exactly what David did, thanks to Abigail's guidance.



David not only listened, he clearly comprehended the gravity of the situation. Notice, God is blessed first:

1 Samuel 25:32-35: (NASB) ³²*Then David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me,*

Think about what David said with these beautiful words. Think about the power of these words, especially after David rode with 400 armed men to wipe out all the males in that household. He said, *Blessed be the Lord God... who sent you this day to meet me.* These words show how much he realized he owed everything to God.

David then shows humble thanks for Abigail's wisdom and courage:

³³*and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand.*

Thank you for saving my life. *Blessed be your discernment and blessed be you, you have kept me from a gross sin and error.*

He then humbly confesses the depth of his own sinful rage and decision:

³⁴*Nevertheless, as the Lord God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light as much as one male.*

David could have made excuses by saying he had second thoughts; maybe his thinking had been a little overboard in wanting to slaughter them all. Instead, he told Abigail that if it were not for her, he would have done exactly as he had threatened. David was being painfully honest in saying how far off his thinking was. He was not backing off one iota because he knew his own heart and was willing to confront it.

After all of these admissions and all of these recognitions, he put it all into perspective in this order:



1. He made certain God received the glory.
2. He made sure Abigail was recognized.
3. He made sure his sins were made public.

Only then does David receive Abigail's gifts:

³⁵*So David received from her hand what she had brought him and said to her, Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request.*

Paraphrasing David to Abigail: *I listened to you because you were wiser than I. I listened to you because you were more reverent than I. I listened to you because you were more righteous than I. I recognize it and I freely admit it.*

It has been said that David committed many sins in his lifetime, but never the same sin twice.

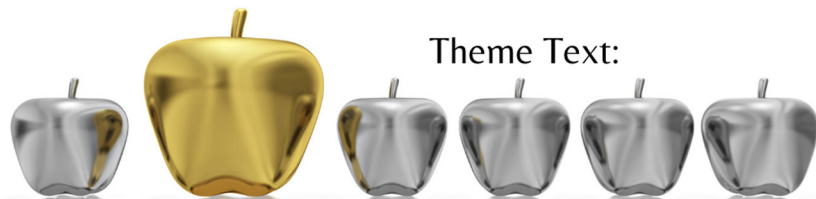
God overruled, and David admits God sent him Abigail to redirect him from this violent sin.

Friendship is a sheltering tree. — Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

While Jonathan was one of David's "redwood trees," Abigail was a sheltering tree as well.



He insisted he and his men would not kill Saul, having several opportunities, yet here he was ready to succumb to “road rage” at a personal affront. This is another example of David being humble enough to recognize his sin and change his attitude. While we are here looking at the good example of Abigail, we also need to see the good example of David in the end. There is a two-for-one lesson here. It is a beautiful piece of Scripture.



Proverbs 25:11,12: (NASB) *Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprove <3198> to a listening ear.*

To “reprove” means to express disapproval, criticize, to convince and correct.

Reprover: Strong's #3198, *yakach*; correction, chasten, plead (and others)

Abigail was the reprove and David was the reprov'd - the listening ear. Abigail did the right thing by speaking out boldly, and David was in tune enough from of the preparations God had given him to know her words were divinely appointed.



When we are the reprove, do we respectfully
stand for righteousness like Abigail?

When we are the “ear,” do we humbly accept
“apples of gold in settings of silver”
when we are being selfish and impulsive?

How do we handle being the reprove or being the reprov'd? Are we gracious? Are we humble? Are we reverent?

The New Testament clearly tells us not to render evil for evil:

Romans 12:19: (NASB) *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.*



Abigail returned home after David had expressed all these lovely words to her.

She found Nabal drunk and feasting, so she was smart enough to say nothing:

1 Samuel 25:37-42: (NASB) ³⁷But in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him so that he became as a stone. ³⁸About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

David did not have to kill Nabal; the Lord's providence took care of him. He probably had a heart attack or a stroke. We do not know if it was brought on by fear, realizing the danger he put his household in, or if he was mad at his wife, or if he was humiliated by her wisdom and actions.

David's humble and grateful attitude continued:

³⁹When 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 back His servant from evil. The LORD has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head...

David praises God for sending Abigail to turn him around. He now seeks to keep such wisdom and courage by his side:

...Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife. ⁴⁰When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, David has sent us to you to take you as his wife. ⁴¹She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants.

Although we might not use this last sentence in our day, Abigail was showing humility and reverence to her future king and husband. This was culturally appropriate. In effect, she was saying: *I will be a good wife to you.* Remember, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. It gives us some insight into Abigail's heart and the kind of wife she would be.

⁴²Then Abigail quickly arose, and rode on a donkey, with her five maidens who attended her; and she followed the messengers of David and became his wife.

The humility of Abigail was not just a show to keep David from destroying the people. It was legitimate, heartfelt and deep. Her reverence for God was not just a performance to show David that she worshipped the same God as he did. Through the entire story, we see her willingness to fulfill the responsibilities of a wife in those days. Her wisdom was the result of a mature character. It shows us her incredible depth.



It is possible David inherited Nabal's vast estate through this marriage. The Bible does not tell us more details.

Why do we get to witness such a detailed account? David had at least eight wives who are virtually unknown. Perhaps the purpose was to show that Abigail was the greatest influence for good. She helped David remember he was God's anointed.

From her example, we learn how to be both a noble "reprover" and a humble "ear." We get the sense that Abigail was a balancing influence for David, just like Jonathan was. At this point in his life when he was exiled, she kept him on the straight and narrow, teaching him what would be necessary for when he later becomes king.



Let's jump to the New Testament. Jesus said this to his apostles:

Matthew 26:41: (NASB) *Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Our spirit can be willing and strong in the Lord, but our flesh gives in to worldly weaknesses, just like David giving into the rage he felt after Nabal's insults and bad treatment of David's men. Harsh trials mold our character and we endure with the help of the holy spirit. Our battle is against forces large and small every day. These include insults and indignities to us as human beings. God may give us an "Abigail" to keep us from the sin of trying to defend our pride and lead us into a death experience. God may send us an Abigail when we need one. We need to pay attention to see when that Abigail arrives!



**When in a downward spiral of human frustration and anger,
be willing to listen to an Abigail.
*Recognize your Abigail, and listen well.***

With some people we have complete patience and have no problem making excuses for them or ignoring their bad behavior. We say, "Oh, that's just Uncle Bob." But there are others that for whatever reason, rub us the wrong way, or to whom we do not immediately attribute a pure motive. When someone acts or does not act the way we expect or says or does not say what we want them to, we can react viscerally and improperly, and the fault is our own. Even the improper *thought* is a sin, expressed and acted upon or not.

Recognize your trusted Abigail, a person that will guide you in giving good advice whether you want to hear it or not, because each decision we make can change our lives for better or worse.

Who are the CQ hosts' Abigails?



I have had several Abigails in my life. Early in my Christian life it was my Uncle Steve. He had a way of dealing with the practical issues of life that did not make sense to me. I had a passion for Scripture and for God. When I was younger, I won't say it was an out of control enthusiasm, but it was on the edge. He had a way of reeling me in and helping me see the practicality of being able to move forward with purpose, not just with energy.

Now, there are a couple of brothers in Christ who are older and wiser than I am who I can call and talk to when I run into situations. Interestingly, they are both named David. I look for that kind of wisdom when I am stuck.



My wife, Jewel, is my Abigail. She has a keen awareness of right and wrong. Jewel keeps me focused on godly principles and is my rock. She shows great concern for others and is always encouraging. She is my editor in life for what I am trying to say, so I can be understood. She is wise and beautiful. I thank God for His gift of my Jewel.



I have three Abigails. My husband, Doug, knows everything that happens to me. He very patiently listens and objectively offers valuable advice to talk me off the ledge whenever necessary.

My sister, Laurie, however, is like a twin that came seven years later. When I need a woman's perspective (which generally means more intuitive and perceptive, sorry gentlemen), I can give her every detail of color commentary, and she will listen and very bluntly tell me where I'm off base. But even if the affront is real, she will diffuse it by attributing a higher motive to the offender or by redirecting me to scriptural principle.

For certain issues, I go to Rick, who will also listen patiently. He will validate my feelings, and gently steer me in the proper direction. He also diffuses the situation and gives me a lot to consider - he gives a lot of homework that can be irritating at the time, but is ultimately very helpful. Talking to one of these three people means I am NOT complaining to multiple people who might not respond so faithfully and would instead fuel my anger or hurt. This would turn into gossip and possibly slander, yet more sins. I am very thankful for my Abigails and thankful for all of these lessons God provided for us.

HOMework



The lessons from David's life have been remarkable. This is a wonderful way to wrap up this Warrior of God series. During these lessons we have talked about the armor of God. Let's recap the pieces of armor and how we drew lessons from each piece and connected them to incidents in David's life.



1. When facing Goliaths, know the battle is the Lord's.
HELMET OF SALVATION
2. Choosing the right friends can save your life, in more than one way.
With godly friends, we are not in this alone. **SHIELD OF FAITH**
3. In springtime, go to war. One sin can quickly lead to another when you are not where you are supposed to be. **SHOES (feet shod)**
4. Know how to take care of holy things because they are blessings from God.
BELT OF TRUTH



5. If you are not allowed to build a temple, provide the plans and materials for it. Focus on what the Lord IS granting you, and accept when the answer is no. **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**
6. Recognize your Abigail and listen well. **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

the ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:14 tells us about the **BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

That word righteousness is where Abigail shone brightest. She did the hard work and the godly reasoning and brought a righteous solution to David. He listened. She appealed to David in God's name. She placed the blame on herself for the sake of protecting innocent lives. Abigail showed us the importance of having and living by a standard of righteousness.

Not only does the breastplate cover the heart, but it also protects our vital organs and moves when we move. **Our breastplate is the righteousness and justification of Jesus.** It is a weapon of defense, as the ransom satisfies the just requirements of God and saves us from death. Looking at the offending person from the standpoint of "Jesus died for him, too" should help us with these little offenses that come our way that make us feel like we are ready to "burn it all to the ground" like David was.

Looking at the story of David, we realize that in this three-part series we merely scratched the surface. We see the profound variety of lessons that changed David's life, developed him and prepared him to be the second king of Israel. Was he perfect? No. Did he fall? Yes. Did he get up? Always!

We can take these lessons from King David that we can apply to our own lives every day and say, "I, TOO, CAN BE A WARRIOR FOR GOD!"

When we look at Abigail with her wisdom, her reverence, her humility and her drive to do what was godly, we can take *her* example and say, "I can be an Abigail, and I can have an Abigail to help me do what I need to do."

David and Abigail - two tremendous warriors for God and warriors for truth!

Women have a unique power of being able to look at the world's problems and discover solutions that transform lives and make the world a better place. — Dr. Ayanna Howard

***So, what does it mean to be a
warrior for truth?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie)
and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***



Join us next week for our podcast on June 29, 2020
Ep. 1132: How Should Christians Respond to Racism?
(Part I)

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1131: What Does it Mean to be a Warrior for Truth?

<https://christianquestions.com/program/1131-abigail/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. What did David learn from Jonathan that prepared him for his future experiences? (See 1 Samuel 23:13-18)
2. How did David's experiences in sparing Saul's life prepare him for what lied ahead? What can we learn from his priorities in these situations? (See 1 Samuel 24:1-15)
3. How did David's time fleeing Saul actually benefit him once he finally became the king of Israel? How can we apply this lesson to our lives today? (See Psalm 91:4)
4. How did David first approach Nabal to ask for provisions for his men as a payment for protecting Nabal's flocks? What was Nabal's response? (See 1 Samuel 25:2-11)
5. How did David cave into his anger at Nabal's actions? What does this teach us about how anger can affect us? (See 1 Samuel 25:12-13, 21-22)
6. How did Abigail diffuse the volatile situation created by her husband's foolishness? (See 1 Samuel 25:14-19, 23-31, Proverbs 25:19)
7. What can we learn from Abigail's humble and righteous actions? How can we be like her in our lives?
8. How did David respond to Abigail's words? What can we learn from this example? (See 1 Samuel 25:32-35, Proverbs 25:11-12, Romans 12:19)
9. Do you have an "Abigail" in your life? How have they helped you when you were struggling?