



Women of the Bible

Abigail

I Samuel 25

I Chronicles 2:16, 17

Abigail stands out for a number of reasons. As a woman of beauty and brains, she counsels David, prophesies his kingship, and becomes one of his wives who is actually named. Her character shows us that women of God can be humble, wise, and diplomatic.

What is happening when the story begins? It helps to understand Abigail's decisions. The first thing we learn about her husband, Nabal, is that he lived in Maon with his business in Carmel. He was a **very rich** man (three thousand sheep and a thousand goats), and it was "harvest time" for a sheep rancher. Because sheep shearing was a time of feasting and lavish hospitality toward others, it shows that Nabal was just mean. He could have given provisions to David's men, who had looked out for Nabal's servants out in the field.

Nabal was hateful, but notice that David did not respond in kind to Nabal as he had just previously responded toward Saul, who was trying to kill him. It is human nature to degrade or demean those considered to be beneath our station in life or someone our equal.

Abigail had many split-second decisions to make. She makes them according to her **personality**, her **character**, her **fears**—the same things that determine our decisions. There are four kinds of riches. There are riches in what you **have**, riches in what you **do**, riches in what you **know**, and riches in what you **are** – riches of *character*. Nabal was a rich man, but only rich in what he had. It's the lowest kind of riches.

*Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:
But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me,
that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness,
in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 9:23, 24*

Like Rahab, there are so many split-second decisions!

- Do I tell my husband? *He's already told them no, and he is going to be so angry!*
- If my husband knows I went and didn't tell him, then what?
- Should I take food, or just take off and catch David? *Feed a man first, oh, yes. Food it is.*
- What do I say when I get there? *I'm an intelligent woman. I'll think of something (although being intelligent isn't required for speaking :)*

INSIGHT INTO HER PERSONALITY:

- She was approachable.
"but one of the young men told Abigail" (25:14).
- She was level headed and intelligent and respected by those who worked for her.
"Now therefor know and consider what thou wilt do" (25:17)
- She acted/reacted quickly and efficiently.
"Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves . . ." (25:18)
- She had discretion and knew that "timing" is everything.
". . . Behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal" (25:19)
- She humbled herself before David.
"she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face . . ." (25:23)
- She took the offense upon herself.
"I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid" (25:28)
(see also Job 1:5; 1 Peter 2:24) *What a difference grace makes!*
- She was well worded and gave good advice. 25:29-31, 35
Good men will take good advice from us, and we receive the greater blessing.
See 25:40)

CONCLUSION: Living the Big Picture: Fearless in Faith and Grace

Often when we are faced with difficult battles or hard struggles, we may feel like we've been left on our own. But God is always with us, leading us with His Spirit of wisdom and discernment, pouring out His strength and grace, reminding us that He is the greatest power propelling us onward.

We never have to stay stuck in fear or defeat, thinking that our situation will never change. As we are faithful to His word and His leadership, God can do in just a moment what may take years to work through by ourselves. Abigail's story reminds us again that God sees the heart, and He works powerfully on behalf of those who choose to follow Him. Maybe your story is very different from Abigail's, yet you're still feeling like your future is troubled or threatened; possibly by illness, loss, uncertainty, or by difficult relationships, or a toxic environment. Be assured my friend, God knows your way, and He understands the burdens you carry. He is fighting for you right now, even when it's hard to see the full, big picture.

Keep following His lead, press in close to His presence. He is faithful to give you grace for each day, and power to walk through the most difficult of times. Your story is not over yet, He is bringing greater beauty and strength through every hard moment. God is able to carry you straight through. Keep pressing forward, there is good and blessing still in store.

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