

Confronting Confrontation

David made a decision in a cave where he could have become king by killing a vulnerable Saul. He decided not to take this into his own hands but to allow God to make this happen. What he (and we) needs to consider is what story are we going to tell our grandchildren in many years to come. Will it be that we “took what was coming to us” or that we allowed God to bring about what he had promised us? Samuel the prophet is now dead and the transition from Judges to Kings has occurred.

In our story that we look at today, “Nabal” was a husband that had been blessed abundantly. Nabal was described as a self-centered, mean, nasty and wealthy man. His wife “Abigail” is described as smart, wise and beautiful woman. David and his men used their power to protect the people in the area. David made a very appropriate request for some food and resources...a very rude Nabal will respond and it will almost cost him his life as well as his men.

“While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. ⁵ So he sent ten young men and said to them, “Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. ⁶ Say to him: ‘Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!’ ⁷ “Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. ⁸ Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.” (1 Samuel 25:4-8)

¹⁰ Nabal answered David’s servants, “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. ¹¹ Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?” ¹² David’s men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. ¹³ David said to his men, “Each of you strap on your sword!” So they did, and David strapped his on as well. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.” (1 Samuel 25:10-13)

Later we will learn that Nabal's name means, "fool", Nabal is acting foolishly. It does not mean that he lacks intelligence, but is unteachable, arrogant and unapproachable.

David and his men were disrespected and he took personal offense that brought about an immediate reaction of anger.

1. **The Danger of Confronting in Anger.** *The confrontation is about making himself feel better rather than doing what is right.*

According to Jesus (Matthew 5:21), Anger is the beginning of the spirit of murder.

When you begin to verbalize anger, take note! The anger in your heart can be triggered by something very disproportionate.

“Another person’s sin never provides an excuse for your own sin”

Many times when people express their anger toward others, it has nothing to do with that person. There is something much deeper that is stewing, it is the same with David, there was more to his response than what we're seeing.

Unfortunately many times our anger manifest at home and against people we love.

“When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.²⁵ Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. ²⁶ And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. ²⁷ And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. ²⁸ “Please forgive your servant’s presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD’s battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. ²⁹ Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. ³⁰ When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, ³¹ my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant. ³² Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.” (1 Samuel 25:23-32)

- 2 **Confronting Confrontation.** *David is ready to confront with a sword*

2. **Confronting Confrontation.** *David is ready to confront with a sword and a small army! Abigail confronts with gentleness, humility and reason.* Abigail is a picture of the Holy Spirit who will speak to us during these times...will we listen?

- **Avoiding domination and manipulation...it is a goal in relationships to bring out the best in each other.**
- **Initiating the apology and speaking towards the future.**
- **The necessity of a teachable heart.**

“Please forgive your servant’s presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord...” (:28)

“Healing cannot happen until anger is diffused”

“What you get angry about reflects who you are as a person”

Jesus became angry about things that kept people from having a life with God, what makes you angry?

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
(Proverbs 15:1)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
(Romans 12:21)

(:35) *“I have heard your words.” = “I have listened to your voice, and I will obey your words.”*

David listens. His heart softens.

Ron Mehl used to say: “Satan wants you to move fast, think little and invest a lot”. That’s what David was about to do and it would exact a tremendous price.

Five characteristics of an unteachable spirit:

- **Chronic failure**
- **Argumentative and defensive nature** – *any time that someone tries to influence you or teach you in this area you become defensive and combative.*

“Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you. 9 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.” (Proverbs 9:8)

- **Isolation and withdrawal in times of disagreement and difficulty.**

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“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.” (Proverbs 18:1 NKJV)

- **Blame Transfer**
- **Surrounding yourself with people who agree with you and feeling threatened by those with differing opinions.**

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

“Being teachable is never a sign of weakness but it is a sign of wisdom”

3. We all need an intercessor

“³⁶ When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until daybreak. ³⁷ Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. ³⁸ About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died. ³⁹ When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal’s wrongdoing down on his own head.” (1 Samuel 25:36-39)

“There will always be people that will set you off, and there will always be people who need your help. ”

“When the Holy Spirit comes, He will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)

“But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.” (Romans 2:8)

“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions —it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:3-8)

Discussion Questions

- 1) Although the focus of our study is on David and Abigail as a picture of the Holy Spirit in our lives, let’s look at *Nabal* for a moment. As we

- 1) Although the focus of our study is on David and Abigail as a picture of the Holy Spirit in our lives, let's look at *Nabal* for a moment. As we look back at pages 1 and 2 of our notes, what do we learn about him? As we read about his response to David what type of person is he and have you ever met anyone like him or do you see a little bit of him in yourself?
- 2) Pastor Randy spoke about the: "*the danger of confronting in anger*". Looking back in your life, (whether yourself or someone else), did you find this to be true? Referring to David's response to Nabal's insults and offense Randy suggested that David's intention to confront: "*is about making himself feel better rather than doing what is right*". In your experience do you find this statement to be accurate?
- 3) In Matthew 5:21, according to Jesus, anger is the beginning of the spirit of murder. On first reading we may think that this seems extreme, but as we consider this verse how does it almost play out in our story? Also please discuss this statement: "*Another person's sin never provides an excuse for your own sin*"
- 4) Discuss the following truths from page 2 of your notes: *When you begin to verbalize anger, take note!* And "*The anger in your heart can be triggered by something very disproportionate*".
- 5) A very rude and arrogant man has insulted David. He and his men have protected Nabal and his shepherds and is appropriately asking for some food and resources. Abigail meets David as he and his men approach ready to kill Nabal and all the males under his roof. She a picture of the Holy Spirit who will speak to us during these times. Please discuss the role Abigail plays in this drama, but how the Holy Spirit speaks to us during times like this and the importance of listening as David did.
- 6) In a very self-perspective question let's ask ourselves: what makes you angry...be honest! Jesus became angry with people and things that kept people from coming to God and having a life with him. As we look into our hearts remember: "What you get angry about reflects who you are as a person". This is not a "game ender", because if we listen to "Abigail's" voice he will warn us, change and heal us!