

Injustice and Revenge

1 Samuel 25

TAG Team Lesson

Week beginning March 7

Cultural Insights:

Robbers – The Wilderness of Paran, where David fled after Samuel died, was a haven for roving bands of robbers. To the present day, groups of men protect the life and property of wilderness dwellers in return for gifts. Even during David’s most difficult times, he took upon himself the care and protection of his countrymen (1 Samuel 25:7-8, 15-16).

Bound in the Bundle of the Living – A Hebrew saying, referring to life beyond the grave. It is often found on Jewish tombstones, even recent ones. The image comes from the custom of bundling valuable possessions to prevent them from being broken or damaged. It is a picture of a precious jewel, carefully tied up in a bundle to keep it secure and safe.

“Then Samuel died.” Chapter 25 begins with what must have been a very emotional time for Israel. Samuel was dead. All Israel mourned the loss of a great man of God. Samuel had been the link between two very different forms of government – judges and kings. He was the last spokesman of an era that would never return. Samuel had been born in Ramah, had administered the affairs of Israel from that city, and at the last was buried there.

1. Read 1 Samuel 25:1-17. Making observations from the passage, describe Nabal.

2. In light of Proverbs 12:15-16; 13:16, what actions of Nabal’s indicate he was a fool?

3. Describe and characterize Nabal’s wife, Abigail. Give verse references to support your answer (vv. 3-19).

4. What kind of reputation did David’s men have among the shepherds? (vv. 14-16).

5. How do your neighbors describe you and your family?

6. Why do you think David quickly put on his sword? (vv. 9-13).

7. In a dictionary look up the word “revenge,” and write out a brief definition of your own.

8. In light of your definition, what do you think David was feeling at this time?

9. When Abigail heard the shepherd’s report, how did she respond?

10. In v. 34 what did David say about the importance of Abigail's actions?
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11. Do you think what Abigail did was dangerous? Why or why not?
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12. What sharp contrast do you see between Nabal's and Abigail's view of David? (vv. 10-11, 28-30).
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13. When Abigail told David he would be "bound in the bundle of the living," what was she trying to get him to see? In contrast, what does she say will happen to David's enemies?
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14. In terms of your life, in what way is this "picture" an encouragement to you today?
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15. What three things did Abigail humbly ask David to consider? (vv. 23-31).
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16. The Lord used Abigail to help David learn what important lesson? (vv. 33-34).
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17. What would have happened to David if he had carried out his planned attack? (vv. 30-33).
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18. In light of this passage, why do you think God said that vengeance is His? (Deuteronomy 32:35).
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19. Through Abigail God taught David a lesson. Think of your own situation. How might Abigail's wisdom prevent you from repaying evil with evil? Be specific.
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20. What does David's response to Abigail show about a person after God's heart?
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21. As you review chapter 25, list ways God protected and made provision for Abigail and David.
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22. Show other ways God's sovereign control over all things is demonstrated in this chapter. Support your answer with verse reference. In what ways are you encouraged by the story of Nabal, Abigail, and David?
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