

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

10)	07 Feb	1Samuel 18-21	Friendship
11)	14 Feb	1Samuel 22-24	Respect
12)	21 Feb	1Samuel 25	Discernment
13)	28 Feb	1Samuel 26-31	Guidance

INTRODUCTION

- We are introduced to Abigail, a woman who recognized she had a foolish husband who would get them all killed if she did not take matters into her own hands.
- Other issues in this Chapter:
 - David makes a rash decision to destroy Nabal's clan, but Abigail's wise response changes the outcome for the good of all
 - Ancient customs of the desert give insight into the situation
- When is it appropriate to disregard those in authority, be it spouse, parent, boss, or king, and take matters into our own hands?

Passage	Comments
1Samuel 25:1-13	Hello Abigail - v3. How Abigail and Nabal hooked up and got married is anyone's guess. Opposites do attract, or more probably it was an arranged marriage. - Abigail is described as "intelligent and beautiful" and Nabal, her husband is depicted as "harsh & mean" - vv10-11. Was Nabal in the wrong for refusing to give hard-earned belongings to a bunch of rebels that gathered to a fleeing servant of the king? - What are we missing to understand this passage? - What were the ancient customs we should consider?
A Word on Hermeneutics – the principles used to accurately interpret and understand the meaning of text - When do we take a passage literally or figuratively? - Does genre (e.g., poetry, prophecy, history) impact the meaning? - Are there demographic, geopolitical, cultural, linguistic, or social customs to know (e.g., weddings & funerals, metaphors & idioms)? In this case with Nabal, there are Desert Customs to be aware of - If someone protected you from harm, it was hospitable to show gratitude by giving them a share of what was saved - If you failed to show gratitude (as Nabal refused to do), it would show contempt of your rescuer(s)	
25:14-17	Abigail's Worthless Husband - v17. "No one can reason with him" - Prov 1:7 Fools despise wisdom and instruction - Prov 10:21 Fools die for being stupid - Prov 14:16 Fools are arrogant and careless - Prov 18:7 A fool's mouth is his ruin - Prov 23:9 Do not speak to a fool, it is a waste of time
25:18-22	Abigail Takes Matters into Her Own Hands - What made Abigail see the severity of the situation so clearly for her to come to a quick decision? Consider this. God has made the mind & body to respond instantly in do or die situations, as a parent throws their arm in front of a kid before a crash. - But did Abigail sin by usurping husband's authority?
Principle to Live By – When is it appropriate to take matters into our own hands without running ahead of God? - Sarah took matters into her own hands and gave her handmaid, Hagar, to her husband, Abraham, to father a child – and that didn't turn out too well - King Saul took matters into his own hand and lost his crown for not waiting on Samuel to show up - Phinehas took matters into his own hands and killed an adulterous couple & saved 1,000s from a plague - Here, Abigail took matters into her own hands and saved everyone from destruction	

Passage	Comments
Principle to Live By. If there is foolish or sinful behavior, then it is appropriate to seek recourse, otherwise you could invoke problems for generations	
25:23-31	Abigail Takes the Blame - Abigail did not stand up for her husband, but basically ran him over with a bus – "He's a fool's fool" - vv28-31. Though Abigail lived out in the boonies, she was fully aware David would ascend to the throne, and she was wise enough to see that shedding of innocent blood would be a political fiasco for him.
25:32-38	Abigail Saves David from Gross Sin - vv32-35. David acknowledged Abigail did him a great favor by quelling his anger. Do we thank people for saving us from turmoil? Consider this. When David came to his senses over his rash behavior, he simply dropped it & went home. This is a mark of a man of character. - vv37-38. Nabal apparently had a stroke. Wouldn't it be nice if every fool perished this quickly? Or would it? Maybe many of us would already be dead!
25:39-44	Abigail Marries David - v41. Look at Abigail's humility. She was willing to be a servant who would wash the feet of other servants. - v42. Abigail was not an impoverished widow since she had 5 maidens at her disposal. - v43. Abigail was the first of several wives. Was this a smart thing for Abigail to do? What were her options?
A Word on Polygamy - Polygamy was allowed according to Jewish law, and by God's accommodation to sin (also divorce and remarriage) - Polygamy was allowed, but monogamous sex was considered the norm, and group sex (orgies) was an abomination..... Leviticus 18 - Polygamy was rarely practiced by Jews after their return from Babylonian captivity - Jesus clarified God's definition of marriage from the beginning of creation as 1 man to 1 woman for life. - Everything else adulterates God's original plan - With the erosion of marriage in America, polygamy will be coming to a state near you sooner than later. If a polygamist accepts the Lord (be it in Africa or America), how should we counsel them?	

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Abigail goes down in the history books as one of the wisest people in the Bible who was also bold, humbled, gracious, and beautiful
- Her actions saved a lot of lives, and she prevented the future King of Israel from committing a gross sin that could have hindered him ascending to the throne as soon as he did
- Acquiring beauty may be out of our control, but how can we grow to be wise, bold, prudent and gracious as Abigail? Can these qualities be acquired overnight, or does it take time?

NEXT WEEK: 1Samuel 26-31. David flees to the Philistines to avoid Saul, and Saul, once again takes matters into his own hands and has a medium conjure up Samuel for a last minute strategy session – which did not end well.

