



THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 52]

'A' IS FOR ABIGAIL

Reading: **1 Samuel 25:14 - 22**

Introduction

- David, accompanied by 400 armed men are about to unleash bloodshed and slaughter.
- What has caused David to momentarily take leave of his senses?
- David and his men had protected the shepherds and servants of the rich Nabal. [vs 15/16].
- David and his men deserved some reward for their troubles.
- David had sent his young men with grace to ask for some kindness.
- But Nabal had humiliated them and returned them evil for good.
- All that stands between an enraged David and a blood bath was a woman.

1 Who Was Abigail?

- Her name is mentioned 14 times in the Bible.
- Abigail means '*Her Father's Joy*'.
- [vs 5] she is the polar opposite of her husband Nabal.
- '**A woman of good understanding and of beautiful appearance.**'
- In all likelihood it was an arranged marriage.
- One of the lessons of 1Samuel is that we should never judge a book by its cover.
- [1 Samuel 9:2] the handsome Saul on the inside was jealous, rebellious and evil.
- [1 Samuel 1:14/15] the woman who appeared drunk was actually engaged in earnest prayer.
- [1 Samuel 16] '**Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.**'
- The outward appearance is attractive to the natural eye but it's the inner beauty that matters to God.

- Consider [1Peter 3:3/4].
- Abigail not only had outer beauty, she had that inner beauty that God says is precious.

2 Abigail's Intervention

- There are things that are not our fault but they are our responsibility and we must act accordingly.
- Abigail quickly prepares a peace offering.
- She puts herself between David and her godless husband and her home.
- She's brave.
- She's humble, bowing on the ground.
- She's respectful, calling David '**Lord**'.
- She's a servant heart, calling herself a '**handmaid**'.
- She's godly: Talks about the Lord 7 times.

3 Abigail Believes In God's Providence

- [Vs 26] '**the Lord has held you back from coming to bloodshed.**'
- In [vs 34] David confirms this is the case.
- Can you think of a time when God's invisible hand intervened to save you from doing something you'd later regret?
- This is the whole point of the 5th petition of the Lord's prayer.
- Lead us not into temptation.

4 Abigail Believes In David

- Abigail knows [vs 28/29/30]:
 - David fights the Lord's battles
 - Is innocent of all he's accused of.
 - That God has made him promises that He will honour.
 - That God has appointed him to be ruler over all Israel.
 - That his life is hid in the '**bundle of the living with the Lord**'
(A metaphor reflecting binding valuables in a bundle to protect them from injury.)
 - That God will sling his enemies out like a stone from a sling.

5 David, Abigail And Chileab

- [2 Samuel 3:3] A son is born to David and Abigail.
- The critics say it's Nabal's, Abigail pregnant before she met/married David.
- The child is initially called '**Daniel**'.
- As he grows up he is a '**spitting image**' of David.
- He is then called '**Chileab**' meaning '**his father's picture**'.
- [Romans 8:29] we have been predestined for a purpose '**to be conformed to the image of God's Son**'.
- See also [Galatians 4: 19] "**....Christ is formed in you..**"
- We are to progressively become '**our Father's picture**' in word and deed.

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