

**O.T. Characters - Abigail**  
**1 Samuel 25:1-3**  
**By Russell Earl**

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from Abigail.

- Intro:
1. Today we will look at our final lesson from Old Testament characters.
  2. Again, we can learn valuable lessons from old testament examples

I. Abigail's Story

A. Background

- 1. The events recorded here are from the time period when David was fleeing from the wrath of Saul.**
- 2. Rather than fight Saul, David and his 600 men fled into the wilderness**
- 3. In this same region, a wealthy man, named Nabal, kept his herds.**
- 4. David and his men treated Nabal's herdsmen well and even protected them and their flocks both day and night.**

B. Story in a Name (Nabal means "fool") - **I Sam 25:25**

- 1. Nabal was indeed acting like a fool.**
- 2. On a feast day, David sent 10 of his men to request provisions**
  - a. It was a reasonable payment for the services he had provided without being asked.
  - b. Not every farmer has 600 men guarding his herds.
- 3. Nabal, though, refused to recognize David**
  - a. It seems he knew something about David's background because he alludes to his being on the run.
  - b. However, he calls David a run-away servant who is hiding from his legitimate master.
  - c. "Why," he asked, "should I take food from my workers to give to vagabonds?"
- 4. David became very angry at Nabal's rude response. He called his men to war having the intention to kill all the males in Nabal's household.**
- 5. Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants, realizing what Nabal had done, ran to Nabal's wife - I Sam 25:14-17**
- 6. Nabal's wife was quite a contrast to the foolish man - I Sam 25:3**
  - a. It is her response we wish to study.

III. Abigail saves her husband.

A. She acted quickly - **I Sam 25:18-19**

1. She loaded up generous provisions for David's men and sent a servant ahead to tell David she was coming. She then rode out to meet David.
2. She did not worry about the problem.
3. She did not wait for David to come to her. She met her problems face on.

B. She was humble before David - **I Sam 25:23**

1. She could have been indignant or arrogant when confronting David, but instead she fell on her face.

- C. She took the blame for her husband & asked forgiveness – **I Sam 25:24-28**
  - 1. We live a society that looks to avoid responsibility. No one wants to be blamed for anything. Instead they strive to fix the blame elsewhere.
  - 2. What a contrast! It wasn't Abigail's fault, but she took the blame.
- D. Abigail said she was there to warn David.
  - 1. David was about to sin?!?
    - a. Yes, David was about to slaughter unarmed men because one man foolishly insulted him.
    - b. Nabal was not nice. He definitely was rude. But does rudeness deserve a death penalty? Did those shepherds that David watched over deserve to die because they had a foolish master?
  - 2. Abigail pointed out how the Lord has been with David, has blessed him and will continue to bless him - **I Sam 25:28-29**
- E. She did not want David to sin.
  - 1. David, in his coming glory, would not want a memory of sin caused by a moment of anger to cloud his memories - **I Sam 25:30-31**

#### IV. Nabal's Ignorance

- A. Abigail waited until Nabal sobered up the next day to tell him what had happened.**
- B. The news shocked Nabal so badly that he became like a stone.**
- C. Ten days latter he died.**

#### V. Lessons for us today.

- A. It wasn't just her foolish, wicked husband whom Abigail saved.
- B. She kept a righteous man from making a grave mistake.

#### Application & Conclusion:

- 1. Let us use Abigail's example and not go along with poor attitudes and harshness.
  - a. Abigail didn't go along with her husband's error and even worked to have his life spared.
- 2. Abigail knew her husband well and was wise enough and kind enough to look out for him regardless of his shortcomings.
- 3. Full Invitation

#### Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

#### Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9