

2. Abigail

This man's name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was mean and dishonest in all his dealings.

When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep, he sent ten of his young men to Carmel.

Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, "David sent men from the wilderness to talk to our master, and he insulted them.

You'd better think fast, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!"

Abigail lost no time. She quickly gathered two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, nearly a bushel of roasted grain, one hundred raisin cakes, and two hundred fig cakes. She packed them on donkeys and said to her servants, "Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly." But she didn't tell her husband what she was doing.

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. She fell at his feet and said, "I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say. I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the messengers you sent.

David replied to Abigail, "Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murdering the man and carrying out vengeance with my own hands.

When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal had thrown a big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her meeting with David until the next morning. The next morning when he was sober, she told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and he lay on his bed paralyzed. About ten days later, the LORD struck him and he died.

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise the LORD, who has paid back Nabal and kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin." Then David wasted no time in sending messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife.

When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, "David has sent us to ask if you will marry him."

She bowed low to the ground and responded, "Yes, I am even willing to become a slave to David's servants!" Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David's messengers. And so she became his wife.

(1 Samuel 25: 3-5, 14, 17-19, 23-25, 32-33, 36-42 NLT)



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ABIGAIL	FIG	SENSIBLE
ATTENDANTS	FOOL	SERVANT
BLAME	LOAVES	SHEARING
BOWED	MORNING	SHEEP
BREAD	NABAL	SKINS
CAKES	PACKED	STROKE
CALEB	PAID	TEMPERED
CARMEL	PARALYZED	VENGEANCE
CELEBRATING	PARTY	WILDERNESS
DONKEY	RAISIN	WINE