

## 8. Abigail Stopped David From Sinning

### 1 Samuel 25:14-34 NIV

One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers ... to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us ... Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep ... disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."

Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. She fell at his feet ... "My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you ... May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal ... his name is Fool, and folly goes with him ...

"Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal. And let this gift ... be given to the men who follow you. Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant."

David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."



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|-----------|---------|------------|
| ABIGAIL   | DONKEYS | LIVING     |
| ALIVE     | EVIL    | MEET       |
| APPOINTED | FACE    | NABAL      |
| AVENGED   | FIGS    | NEEDLESS   |
| BLAME     | FOLLY   | OWN        |
| BUNDLE    | FOOL    | RAVINE     |
| BURDEN    | HURLED  | SENT       |
| DAVID     | INSULTS | SEVERELY   |
| DAYBREAK  | INTEND  | SLING      |
| DONE      | LEADER  | STAGGERING |