

“When a Neighbor Disrespects You”  
Series: “David: From Fugitive to King”

1 Samuel 25

Rusty Russell

New Day Christian Church, Port Charlotte, FL

July 8, 2018

Last summer we learned that this young shepherd boy, David, was chosen as the future king of Israel because he was a man after God’s own heart. He had the tender heart of a shepherd but the courage of a warrior. He killed Goliath and became a war hero. But Saul was jealous and tried to kill him. David had to flee for his life.

The last half of 1 Samuel records a long season of David’s life – probably a decade or so – when David was a fugitive. The Holy Spirit has preserved these stories from his life on the run so that we will gain insight into the character of this “man after God’s own heart.”

In 1 Samuel 25 we discover how to respond when a neighbor insults you.

## **I. SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 25**

### **A. SCENE ONE: DAVID IS ENRAGED**

***2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. 3 His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings--he was a Calebite.***

***4 While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.***

It was a time of gift giving, and David asks Nabal for a gift. According to the customs of the day he shouldn’t have had to ask, since David and his men have helped to protect the land.

***10 Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters***

**these days. 11 Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"**

**12 David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word.**

**13 David said to his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" So they did, and David strapped his on as well...**

Reasons David was vulnerable to temptation:

- 1) He was grieving.
- 2) He was recuperating.
- 3) He was hungry.
- 4) He was lonely.

*James 1:19-20: "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."*

**B. SCENE TWO: DAVID IS CONFRONTED**

**14 One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. 15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. 16 Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. 17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."**

**18 Abigail acted quickly. 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. 19 Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.**

**20 As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. 21 David had just said, "It's been useless--all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. 22 May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"**

**23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said:**

### ABIGAIL'S SPEECH

*"Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. 25 Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name--his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. 26 And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. 27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you.*

*28 "Please forgive your servant's presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. 29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord 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. 30 When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, 31 my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having*

avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant."

**32 David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. 33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 34 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." 35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."**

### APPLICATION: REFUSE TO RETALIATE

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ MARCHING.
- 2) ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) THANK GOD.
- 4) ADMIT \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) EXTEND \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ AWAY.
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ PROVIDENCE.

*[Rom 12:17-19 NIV] 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

### SCENE 3: DAVID IS REWARDED

When Abigail told Nabal what she had done, Nabal \_\_\_\_\_.

Ten days later Nabal \_\_\_\_\_.

When David found out, David \_\_\_\_\_ to Abigail.

***41 She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "I am your servant and am ready to serve you and wash the feet of my lord's servants."***

### **CONCLUSION:**

People will insult you. Even a good man will be tempted to retaliate. Don't. Don't ruin your reputation and your witness and possibly even harm innocent people. Take a breath, walk away, and most importantly, trust that God will make everything right someday.

Nobody exemplified that better than the Son of David, our Lord Jesus....

"Like a sheep before his shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth."  
(Is 53:7)

Justice was done and Jesus got his bride!