

BTC - JULY 30, 1989

I SAMUEL 25

DAVID & ABIGAIL

AFTER SAMUEL DIED, DAVID WENT TO THE WILDERNESS OF PARAN. THERE WAS A VERY RICH MAN WHO LIVED NEAR THERE. HIS NAME WAS NABAL. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT NABAL HAD 3,000 SHEEP AND 1,000 GOATS. AT THE TIME OF OUR LESSON, NABAL WAS SHEARING HIS SHEEP IN CARMEL.

DAVID HEARD THAT NABAL WAS SHEARING HIS SHEEP. DAVID SENT 10 YOUNG MEN TO TALK TO NABAL. DAVID TOLD THE 10 YOUNG MEN TO SAY THIS TO NABAL, FIRST, "WE WISH PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO YOU AND EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY. WE WISH GOOD THINGS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE."

THEN DAVID TOLD THE 10 YOUNG MEN TO SAY THIS TO NABAL, "WHEN YOUR SHEPHERDS WERE KEEPING YOUR SHEEP IN THE SAME FIELDS WITH US, WE WERE KIND TO THEM. WE DID NOT HURT THEM OR STEAL FROM THEM AT ALL."

"ASK YOUR SHEPHERDS, THEY WILL TELL YOU HOW WE TREATED THEM. NOW TREAT US KINDLY; WE HAVE COME TO YOU AT THIS TIME OF SHEARING AND CELEBRATION. SHARE WITH US THE GOOD THINGS YOU HAVE TO PAY US FOR THE WORK WE DID FOR YOU IN PROTECTING YOUR SHEPHERDS."

THE 10 YOUNG MEN WENT TO NABAL AND SAID ALL OF THIS, EXACTLY LIKE DAVID TOLD THEM TO DO.

BUT NABAL ACTED LIKE HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE YOUNG MEN! NABAL SAID, "WHO IS DAVID? WHY SHOULD I GIVE GOOD FOOD AND WATER TO MEN THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW?"

SO THE 10 YOUNG MEN WENT BACK TO DAVID AND TOLD HIM WHAT NABAL HAD SAID.

DAVID TOLD THE 10 YOUNG MEN, "PUT ON YOUR SWORDS." THEY ALL PUT ON THEIR SWORDS, AND DAVID PUT ON HIS SWORD. ABOUT 400 OF DAVID'S MEN PUT ON SWORDS AND WENT WITH DAVID.

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT NABAL WAS A MEAN MAN, EVIL IN THE THINGS HE DID, BUT NABAL'S WIFE — ABIGAIL — WAS A GOOD WOMAN.

ONE OF NABAL'S MEN TOLD ABIGAIL ABOUT HOW AWFUL NABAL TREATED DAVID'S YOUNG MEN.

NABAL'S MAN TOLD ABIGAIL, "SOME OF DAVID'S YOUNG MEN CAME TO TALK TO NABAL, AND HE YELLED AT THEM AND TREATED THEM TERRIBLY."

"BUT THESE MEN WERE GOOD TO US THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE WITH THEM IN THE FIELDS. THEY PROTECTED US EVERY DAY AND EVERY NIGHT THE WHOLE TIME

WE WERE WITH THEM."

THE MEN TOLD ABIGAIL, "WE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THIS SO YOU COULD DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT. YOUR HUSBAND IS A VERY EVIL MAN."

ABIGAIL HURRIED AND GATHERED A LOT OF FOOD TOGETHER—200 LOAVES OF BREAD, MEAT FROM 5 SHEEP, SOME CORN, 100 CLUSTERS OF RAISINS, 200 CAKES OF FIGS, AND SOMETHING TO DRINK.

ABIGAIL HAD SERVANTS LOAD THE FOOD ONTO DONKEYS. ABIGAIL TOLD THE SERVANTS TO GO ON AND SHE WOULD FOLLOW BEHIND THEM. BUT ABIGAIL DID NOT TELL NABAL THAT SHE WAS LEAVING.

AS SHE RODE ALONG ON THE DONKEY, SHE SAW DAVID AND HIS MEN COMING. SHE MET THEM AND STOPPED TO TALK WITH THEM.

DAVID HAD ALREADY MADE PLANS TO KILL NABAL AND HIS MEN BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN SO EVIL AND MEAN.

WHEN ABIGAIL SAW DAVID, SHE GOT DOWN OFF HER DONKEY AND BOWED DOWN ON THE GROUND.

ABIGAIL ASKED DAVID TO LISTEN TO HER, THEN SHE SAID, "NABAL IS VERY FOOLISH AND EVIL, BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHEN YOUR YOUNG MEN CAME AND TALKED TO HIM, PLEASE GIVE THIS BLESSING OF FOOD TO YOUR YOUNG MEN."

"I KNOW YOU WILL BE BLESSED BY GOD.

GOD CARES FOR YOU JUST LIKE A VERY SPECIAL TREASURE. BUT GOD WILL PUNISH YOUR ENEMIES JUST LIKE SLINGING THEM OUT OF A SLINGSHOT."

"GOD IS GOING TO BLESS YOU WITH ALL THE GOOD THINGS HE HAS PROMISED YOU. DON'T KILL YOUR ENEMIES, LET GOD TAKE CARE OF PUNISHING THEM."

DAVID LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO ABIGAIL'S ADVICE, THEN DAVID SAID, "GOD HAS SENT YOU HERE TO MEET WITH ME TODAY. GOD BLESS YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS GOOD ADVICE AND KEEPING ME FROM KILLING MY ENEMIES."

DAVID KEPT THE FOOD ABIGAIL BROUGHT. DAVID SAID, "I HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR ADVICE."

ABIGAIL WAS A KIND & CARING WOMAN WHO GAVE DAVID SOME VERY GOOD ADVICE. DAVID LISTENED TO ABIGAIL AND FOLLOWED HER ADVICE.

WE CAN LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD AND TO OUR PARENTS AND TO OUR TEACHERS AND TO OUR PREACHER. FOLLOW THE GOOD TEACHING THAT IS GIVEN TO YOU!