

ROUND TWO: AGAINST A FOOL! 1 SAM. 25

Sometimes it is not life & death but the drip, drip, drip...that finally gets at you!

I. David tempted by a fool!

1 Samuel 25:1 And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran. **1 Samuel 25:2** And *there* was a man in Maon, whose possessions *were* in Carmel; and the man *was* very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. **1 Samuel 25:3** Now the name of the man *was* Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man *was* churlish and evil in his doings; and he *was* of the house of Caleb.

This opening text describes a fool:

- A man with no name
- A man with only stuff
- A man named... Nabal (fool)_
- A man known primarily for his bad / evil behavior and that he was harsh / cruel / hard / obstinate!
- A man married to Abigail → a woman far above him in beauty & brains!

To this everyone agrees:

Author	25:3-4	Servant	25:17	Abigail	25:19,25
David	25:21	Even Nabal			25:10-11

II. David tempted to act the fool!

1 Samuel 25:4 And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. **1 Samuel 25:5** And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: **1 Samuel 25:6** And thus shall ye say to him that liveth *in prosperity*, Peace *be* both to thee, and peace *be* to thine house, and peace *be* unto all that thou hast. **1 Samuel 25:7** And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. **1 Samuel 25:8** Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. **1 Samuel 25:9** And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

1 Samuel 25:10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, **Who is David?** and **who is the son of Jesse?** there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. **1 Samuel 25:11** Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?

1 Samuel 25:12 So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. **1 Samuel 25:13** And David said unto his men, **Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword:** and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

1 Samuel 25:21 Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this *fellow* hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *pertained* unto him: and **he hath requited me evil for good.** **1 Samuel 25:22** So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, **if** I leave of all that *pertain* to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

Dealing with a fool:

- David was asking for a very reasonable return (25:14-16)
- However, David was dealing with a fool
- Fools are inherently difficult to deal with

Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

Proverbs 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Proverbs 17:12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

- The fools is always right → ALWAYS!!!

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent *man* dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open *his* folly.

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool. (Think Nina compared to....)

Proverbs 27:22 Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* will not his foolishness depart from him.

- The fool can quickly cause you to act the fool

Proverbs 29:9 *If* a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, **there is no rest.**

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

➤ **The only thing worse than a fool is two fools**

III. David restrained by God!

1 Samuel 25:26 Now therefore, my lord, *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

1 Samuel 25:39 And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, **Blessed be the LORD, that** hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, **and hath kept his servant from evil:** for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head....

IV. David restrained through people!

God works his sovereign will.

God **always** &/ **ultimately** works his sovereign will.

God **normally** does this through means.

Those means **usually** include people.

1. A young man!

1 Samuel 25:14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. **1 Samuel 25:15** But the men *were* very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: **1 Samuel 25:16** They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. **1 Samuel 25:17** Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he *is such* a son of Belial, that *a man* cannot speak to him.

2. Abigail

1 Samuel 25:18 Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched *corn*, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid *them* on asses. **1 Samuel 25:19** And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. **1 Samuel 25:20** And it was *so*, *as* she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

1 Samuel 25:23 And when Abigail saw David, she hastened, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground,

1 Samuel 25:24 And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, *upon me let this iniquity be:* and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

1 Samuel 25:25 Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, *even* Nabal: for as his name *is*, so *is* he; Nabal *is* his name, and folly *is* with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

1 Samuel 25:26 Now therefore, my lord, *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

1 Samuel 25:27 And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

1 Samuel 25:28 I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee *all* thy days.

1 Samuel 25:29 Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, *as out* of the middle of a sling.

1 Samuel 25:30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

1 Samuel 25:31 That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

1 Samuel 25:32 And David said to Abigail, **Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:**

1 Samuel 25:33 And **blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to *shed* blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.**

1 Samuel 25:34 For in very deed, *as* the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

1 Samuel 25:35 So David received of her hand *that* which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.