

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-ONE

by Sandy Harber

"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." I Samuel 25:26

Abigail attributed to God the praise for keeping David from shedding blood. She could sense that he had changed his mind about killing Nabal (and all males belonging to him). Her gift and her words had turned David from his purpose. She gave God the glory for David's change of heart.

Abigail understood the sovereignty of God. She knew that she was doing God's work when she convinced David to spare innocent lives. God often uses His people to work His will.

Nevertheless, God not only works through His Own people but even idol worshippers and those who hate God can be used to accomplish His purposes. Unbelievers do not realize that they are being used of God (like Abigail did). They think that they are acting in their own best interest - and they are. But, God can use that to accomplish His purposes.

God had big plans for David. The humble shepherd boy who composed beautiful poetry and sang unto the Lord had a heart that God could use. David would make a wonderful leader for his people. He would keep the people focused on the true God and keep them from idolatry. David had been an example to all by his courage and loyalty to God's anointed king, Saul, and his refusal to harm Saul even as Saul pursued him with an army. So far David had not acted rashly. His enemies could not condemn him for any action.

All that would have changed if David had carried out his plan to murder helpless civilians. David was famous for killing Israel's enemies, the Philistines. What would the people of Israel think if he turned on them and began killing them? He would be bound to lose the respect and loyalty of at least some of the people.

God had protected David from himself. He used Abigail to appeal to David's reason. And, then, to appeal to his desire to serve God, Who would not condone murder. As David's anger disipated he snapped back into reality and realized what he had proposed to do was sin.

Abigail cursed David's enemies, wishing them all to be as stupid, useless, and impotent as Nabal. Nabal had no ability to harm David. He was just a big mouthed fool whose words held no power. May all David's enemies be as helpless.

God used Abigail to keep David from sin. He may use you to help someone as well. It could be through the wisdom you've gained from enduring the trials you've faced and overcame. It could be today.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." Proverbs 3:13