

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY

by Sandy Harber

"... but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send." I Samuel 25:25b

Abigail continued her audience before David by explaining that she was not present when his envoy met with her husband, Nabal. She implied that the results would have been very different if she had met with David's men herself, or had she at least been there to advise her husband. On his own, Nabal wrought folly. Abigail would have complied with David's request.

Surrounded by donkeys laden with bread, figs, raisins, corn, meat, and wine, David was confronted with the evidence that Abigail spoke the truth. She was more than willing to accept her obligation to the soldiers and provide them with the food they had earned in serving her family. Now that Abigail had taken command of the situation, David's grievance vanished.

Sometimes all it takes to diffuse a situation is the introduction of reason. Calm, peaceful Abigail was the splash of water needed to put out the spark of anger. She had missed the meeting between her husband and David's delegation, but she was here now ready to make things right.

At times a crisis appears full-blown seemingly out of nowhere, taking us by surprise. Abigail seemed to know exactly what to do to prevent the situation from becoming more critical. She acted quickly and saved lives. She righted a wrong and brought peace.

Your situation may not be one that can be appeased by food and reason. But there is a solution to whatever you are facing. God assured us that He always makes a way out for us (I Cor. 10:13). For every question He has the answer.

If Abigail had been present at the meeting with David's envoy there probably would have been no crisis. She would have been gracious and expressed gratitude for the warriors' service. She would have granted their request. We cannot know for sure what would have happened in this scenario. Nabal may still have objected and caused problems. But my money's on Abigail. I believe she would have prevailed.

But God allowed the meeting to take place in her absence. And, in so doing, He brought Abigail and David together under circumstances that showed Abigail's character in a favorable light. So much so that David took her as his wife when Nabal died. The life or death crisis Abigail faced turned into a blessing for her.

While I would never think my husband's death was a blessing I do believe that God allowed it for His Own good reasons. And I do believe that He will help me to cope with my changed circumstances and use it for my good. Likewise, whatever God has allowed into your life that you must now deal with, He has a way out for you. That is, He has something planned for you that will bring you out of your grief and despair and give you a new purpose, a new goal, or a new focus. You will be able to move forward in a new direction.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13