

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-SIX

by Sandy Harber

"And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me. 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." I Samuel 25:32-33

David blessed God for sending Abigail to stop him from shedding innocent blood. He recognized that her sage advice came from the Lord.

God uses many methods to teach His children. Advice from a Christian friend is just one way. God speaks through His Word and His Spirit as well. There's no substitute for personal Bible study. Precious time spent in the Word with the Holy Spirit as Teacher. God also speaks to us through His servant, the pastor, who delivers His message through sermons and Bible teaching.

Now, sometimes He has to get our attention first. We may be so involved in living our lives the way we want that we are not attuned to the voice of God. But when adversity strikes we run back to the One Who has control over everything. That doesn't mean that every time something bad comes into our lives it is because we have done something wrong that God wants us to correct. It could be that we are walking with Him in perfect harmony, growing spiritually at a steady pace. We are fed by our personal devotions, listening to the weekly sermon, participating in a group Bible study, and meditating on His Word.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ may share what God has done for them. They might even give some advice based on their perception of where we are in our spiritual walk. We can consider the words fairly and determine whether they have merit. Then use them to our advantage. Or, we can become defensive and refuse to truly listen to their message.

David accepted Abigail's advice as wisdom from the Lord. He modified his behavior and was thankful that he had done so. David was willing to learn. His focus was God and, so, he saw His hand in everything that touched his life.

Abigail delivered her advice in a respectful manner. She did not accuse David of sin in a confrontational way. She did not lecture him. She gave God all the credit for turning David from his purpose and keeping him from shedding blood.

And David agreed with her assessment. It was God Who deserved the glory. David put God first: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel," he said (v. 32). He gave God credit for sending Abigail to him. Then he blessed Abigail and her advice, which kept him from making a grave error.

David and Abigail had their priorities straight. Their focus was on God first. David's focus slipped when Nabal insulted him. David's pride was hurt and he was angry with Nabal's ingratitude and his misrepresentation of David's character. David's focus turned inward and he almost made a terrible mistake.

When we are hurt it's natural to turn our focus inward. Why did this happen to me? It's not fair! How can I overcome it? What do I do now? Suddenly it's all about me and what can I do, how can I fix it? In times of stress it is more important than ever to turn our focus back to God. He is in control. He allowed this thing into your life for a reason. What is He trying to teach you? Look to Him.

*"Praise ye the Lord; Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord."
Psalm 135:1*