

WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT

by Sandy Harber

"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 thy voice, and have accepted thy person." I Samuel 25:35

David accepted all the food that Abigail offered him as a peace offering between her house and his army. In addition, David acknowledged the wisdom of her advice and intended to abide by it. He respected her sincerity and believed everything she told him. He sent her away in peace.

The Hebrew word "shalom," which is translated "peace," means much more than the absence of conflict or the cessation of hostilities. Shalom carries with it the idea of health, prosperity, friendship, well-being, and happiness. David sent Abigail back to her house with wishes for her well-being.

David had made peace with the house of Nabal through the person of his wife. In this case "peace" did indeed mean the cessation of hostilities. Four hundred soldiers were stopped in their tracks. Instead of a battle, David's men enjoyed a feast.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Mt. 5:9). Abigail was indeed a child of God and He used her to change the heart of His chosen king. Her actions prevented David from committing such a sin against the innocent as to render him unacceptable for the high office. God had chosen for him.

David and his men had a lot to talk about over their dinner that night. The families of the soldiers and the 200 men that had stayed behind to guard them were treated to a fantastic story of a beautiful noblewoman who had thrown herself before David's horse and begged him to forgive her for the foolish actions of her husband. And the food she provided! What a sight greeted them as they came over the hill to be met by donkey after donkey laden with food and led by Abigail's servants.

Surely Abigail was the subject of much speculation that night as David's company marveled that such a wise woman could be tied up in marriage to a complete fool. Her prophecy that God would preserve David from his enemies would have been discussed with relish. Abigail had assured David that God would fulfill His promise and he would become king of Israel. His enemies, on the other hand, would be flung out of the land of the living like a stone from a slingshot.

It was a night of peace for David and his warriors. Much different than the night they expected to have when they rode out of the camp. One little woman had changed so many lives that night.

Abigail was an ordinary woman, following her daily routine when a major crisis was thrust upon her. She responded to that crisis to the best of her ability. And, when she was done, she returned home and took up her routine duties again.

It isn't until tragedy strikes that we realize what we are capable of. It is in the storm that our faith is tested. God allows life to knock us down so that He can build us back up. He gives us wisdom and strength to accomplish His purposes. We just need to be willing to be used.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8