

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-NINE

by Sandy Harber

**"And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light." I Samuel 25:36**

Abigail returned home, presumably accompanied by her servants and donkeys. Apparently Nabal had not noticed that she was missing. Nor did he notice the absence of some servants and donkeys and food. It's likely that so much food was prepared for the festivities that there was no lack in spite of the provisions Abigail gave to David's men.

Abigail arrived in time to join the celebration with her husband, servants, and neighbors. Nabal was already drunk. The party was in full swing. This was not the time to tell Nabal how close he had come to death. He was in no condition to hear about his wife's exploits. So Abigail bided her time and presided over the feast as hostess.

As Abigail directed the servants to keep the wine flowing and the dishes stocked with bread, meat, vegetables, and fruit she must have observed the difference between her loutish, drunken husband and the handsome, godly warrior she had briefly met on the road.

David had acknowledged his foolish decision was sin and he repented of it. He thanked her for her advice and praised God Who kept him from evil. He was a humble man in spite of his fame and God's promise that he would be king.

In contrast, Nabal was an arrogant fool. He thought that he was better than everyone else because he was rich. He didn't need anyone's advice because he knew it all. He had no time or interest in God. Even when he was sober Abigail and the servants couldn't reason with him. And tonight he was very drunk.

Nabal was so full of himself that he had absolutely no idea that his ill treatment of David's envoy would have repercussions. After the soldiers left, he probably had a good laugh at their expense and bragged about how he had put that upstart David in his place. He went back to the business of shearing his sheep and forgot about the men who had protected his property and asked politely for due consideration. Instead, Nabal's thoughts were on the festivities planned for later that day. He looked forward to playing the great man, entertaining his servants and neighbors in royal fashion.

Nabal was the author of his own destruction. He just didn't know it yet. Abigail was frustrated in her attempts to set him straight by his drunken condition. She would have to wait for his mind to clear if she wanted him to understand his grave mistake.

How did Abigail find herself in such a situation? The Bible doesn't give us details, but given the culture it's likely that Abigail did not choose Nabal as a mate. He was chosen for her by her parents. And we can see by her character that she was a dutiful wife endeavoring to support her husband to the best of her abilities.

Circumstances beyond our control may thrust us into situations that are difficult. We just need to remember that nothing is beyond God's control. He expects us to respond to our circumstances with the wisdom and understanding that comes from knowing His Word. And then we put feet to our faith and obey, leaving the results in His hands.

*"Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me." Psalm 119:133*