

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### ABIGAIL: LESSON FOURTEEN

by Sandy Harber

**"And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them." I Sam. 25:20**

Abigail brought up the rear of her donkey convoy. As she rounded the hill she saw David and his 400 soldiers heading toward her.

David must have been surprised to be met with a number of donkeys laden down with food stuff. How many donkeys were needed to transport 200 loaves of bread, 200 cakes of figs, 100 clusters of raisins, and 5 whole sheep roasted and read for consumption? It must have been quite a reception with Abigail's servants and fully loaded donkeys. Then through the confusion one beautiful woman rides through the ranks to the head of the convoy to meet David at the head of his army.

Abigail must have been anxious as she confronted the leader of this vast company. Had she realized just how many warriors David had at his command? She was completely at the mercy of this vast company. Yet she made her way through the donkeys and servants clustered together in the field facing David's soldiers. She placed herself in front of her servants with the peace offerings.

What an amazing sight this must have been. Surely someone noticed the string of burden-laden donkeys traveling through the countryside. At the same time a fast moving arm of armed soldiers were thundering toward Nabal's holdings. Someone must have observed all this activity. But no one said a word to Nabal.

Nabal must have been so disliked by his servants that not one of them told him what his wife was up to. Imagine how many servants were involved in gathering all the food and packing it on the backs of the donkeys. Abigail and her servants had already been engaged in preparations for the feast that the sheep shearers would share. Abigail simply took advantage of what had already been accomplished and redirected the activities of certain servants while changing the destination of some of the food.

Surely neighbors and others shearing their sheep saw the parade of donkeys heading out from Nabal's estate toward the open fields. Or, perhaps, they noticed the advance of David's army toward Nabal's home. Some may even have observed the meeting between David's and Abigail's contingents. If so, none of them advised Nabal.

Abigail acted boldly to prevent unnecessary bloodshed. It appears that she had the cooperation of everyone around her (except Nabal). You can be sure that she had proven herself in the past so that people trusted her judgment.

How do you think others perceive you? Do they trust your judgment? Would they circle the wagons with you if the need should arise? Would they follow where you lead? Are you the kind of person people bring their problems to? Do you often get requests from your family, friends, and coworkers to pray for this or that person or situation?

Abigail was good in a crisis. She defused a dangerous situation and saved lives. She righted a wrong by feeding the soldiers she and her husband were indebted to. And she turned God's man back from a path that would lead him to sin.

*"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Proverbs 31:10*