

## WIDOWS OF THE BIBLE

### ABIGAIL: LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

by Sandy Harber

**"And it shall come to pass, when the Lord shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel. That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offense of heart unto my lord, either that thou hath shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the Lord shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid ." I Samuel 25:30-31**

Abigail assured David that when the Lord fulfills His promise to make David ruler over Israel, then David will be glad that he hadn't shed the blood of Nabal and his servants. David will have nothing to be ashamed of that would mar the joy of his ascension to the throne of Israel.

Getting "even" with someone means bringing yourself down to their level. It is never going to satisfy your anger or frustration at the wrong done to you. It will simply make you more miserable the more you dwell on it. And, if you succeed in "getting even" you will then have to deal with the guilt that will inevitably come with the "victory." That little thing called a conscience will not allow you to be happy that you hurt someone else - even someone who had hurt you first. If you are a born again Christian you also have the Holy Spirit of God within you. His job is to convict you of your sin and revenge is sin.

When Jesus told his followers to love their enemies and do good to those who persecute you, it wasn't for the benefit of your "enemy" but for you. Jesus created us. He knows our make-up. He knows how humans work. Focusing on our anger and revenge takes a toll on us physically and emotionally. That's why God tells us to forgive. Let it go. Only then can we have internal peace. Let God fight your battles for you. He will do what is best for you and your "enemy" in His time and in His way. God does not operate on the same plain that we do. He knows things about our opponent and his motivation that we don't. He will make things right.

David did not need 400 soldiers to deal with Nabal. God had his number. Nabal had not only insulted David but God as well. It was God who had chosen David to succeed Saul. It was God who had led Samuel to anoint David. Nabal was obviously aware of this but chose to reject David in support of King Saul. Nabal had rejected God's choice. In contrast, Abigail had embraced God's choice. She recognized the grave error David would make if he pursued the path of revenge. God used her to preserve David's integrity.

God can use us if we are willing. Abigail was able to be of service to God because she knew His will and understood the ramifications of David's plot for revenge. How can we know His will? It is written in the Scriptures. II Timothy 2:15 tells us to study the Scripture. In it we will find the mind of God. We will draw closer to Him. And, the Holy Spirit will use what we have studied to guide us in our walk with Him.

One benefit - if it can be called that - of the dark times in our lives is that they bring us closer to God. The better we know Him, the more comforted we are in whatever situation we are in. And, the more He can use us to help others in their walk with Him.

Abigail concluded with a request that David remember her when he is king. She had done David a great service by preventing him from shedding innocent blood. And she had paid the debt her house owed his army by presenting them with a great feast. In return, she hoped that he would remember her service with kindness when he is in a position of power. Abigail treated David with kindness and respect when he was a poor fugitive hiding out in the wilderness. He was in no position to repay her kindness then. She was risking the wrath of her husband by aiding a man he had already scorned and turned away. She was defying King Saul by giving food and comfort to his enemy.

Acts of kindness should not depend on the ability of the recipient to repay that kindness. Quite the contrary. Christian charity means helping the helpless. Give a cup of water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, clothes to the naked. Jesus said that when we do this we are serving Him (Mt. 25:35-40).

*"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27*