

ABIGAIL – A PEACEMAKER

Objective

To learn from Abigail's example how to be a peacemaker

Scriptural Verse

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

References

- ❖ 1 Samuel 25
- ❖ Proverbs 15, 17
- ❖ James 4

Lesson Outline

Understanding the difference between foolishness and peacemaking through the life of Nabal vs. Abigail

Background Information

Nabal –means foolish

Abigail –means the joy of my father

David had protected Nabal's herdsmen from marauders (Amelikes and Philistines) and he himself did not hurt them.

David was asking Nabal for any food he could provide for him and his herdsmen on this feast day. It was a very reasonable request.

Nabal not only refused to give him food showing signs of greed and selfishness but he also belittled David.

David wanted to kill him and all the men in his household.

Both Nabal and David were at fault.

Abigail peaceful behavior saves the situation

1. **She takes the blame** (verses 24-25) – she tells David that it's a given fact that Nabal is foolish and that he should have been more diligent in acknowledging David's help and his servants. She doesn't start out by rebuking David. When we are in a conflict with someone, we need to search closely to see whether we are at fault at all in a situation. Usually there is something that we have done wrong that contributed to the problem. We should use that first in our process of reconciliation. This flies in the face of what the world teaches us – don't admit your mistake or be the first to apologize. But the Christian understanding of humility is to be the first to admit our mistakes and to apologize. The saints take this a step further and actually take the blame for things that they didn't commit, and in so doing they imitate the Lord Jesus Christ. We are all called to do so but at least let's start by being the first to admit our faults.
2. **She prepares a meal** (verse 27) –she understands the problem, these men are hungry and tired. She goes right to the solution and fills the need. When someone is angry we many times look at the

symptoms and try to cure that but we need to try to address the root of the problem. We need to understand people's needs and respond to them (Proverbs 17:8).

3. **She looks at the positive** (verse 28) - she finds the good qualities in David and praises him for them. She praises his good works, that he fights the Lord's battles and that there is no evil in him. She confirms that he is the Lord's anointed and that her husband had so rudely denied it. She shows us the importance of finding the good traits in the person we are reconciling with. Our Lord did that with the Samaritan Woman and with Nathaniel(Proverbs 15:1).
4. **She then reveals to him the consequences of his actions** (verse 30-31) - she knew that David is a God-fearing man so she put things in the perspective of how God would judge his actions. Revealing to a person the consequences of their actions has a more lasting impact than just telling them what they are doing is wrong or unfair.
5. **She gently made David listen to her** (verse 32-34) -David would have committed a sin that he would have regretted all of his life, yet he listened to a humble woman and was able to avoid sin. That's a reminder to us that God uses gentle people like Abigail to talk to us even if they are frail or weak. Listen to what people around us are saying and discern whether or not there is benefit.
6. **She had discernment** (verse 36-37) - she knew when to speak and when to stay silent. She didn't talk to Nabal first because she knew that it would be a waste of precious time. She had to talk to David first. When dealing with an angry person a lot of times it is better not to say anything at first – let the anger dissipate before saying anything and making it worse.
7. **She had internal Peace** – you cannot give what you don't have. A peacemaker is someone whose emotions are not controlling him. He isn't controlled by anger, fear, or jealousy. But everything is led by his spirit which is in obedience to God (James 4:1, 7).

Conclusion

Abigail provides a great example of how we can be true peacemakers in the world. This is achieved by showing meekness, humility, discernment, and having a spirit of service and internal peace.

Activities/Discussion Points

As you read through this story have the students jot down the characteristics that Abigail displays and discuss them.

Think of a difficult situation where the above 7-steps could make a difference.