

"Returning Evil for Good"

1 Samuel 25

Introduction: 'Personalities' and 'power' play an important role in 1 Samuel 25. The tension in this story revolves around wealth but the main point turns on how David will respond to someone who 'returns evil for good'.

Samuel's Death - 1 Samuel 25:1

Foolish People - 1 Samuel 25:2-13 The Hebrew name "Nabal" is the word "fool" whereas Abigail, his wife, is the word "discerning".

Precept: Anyone can act foolishly; it is a natural trait of children. Young men act foolishly and need instruction; but when a mature or aged man acts foolishly there is a real problem. David needed proper instruction—and God would provide it.

Wise Servants - 1 Samuel 25:14-31

Precept: Both of these men needed to learn a lesson—first David, Israel's future king and then Nabal. God would have to intercede for both of these men.

Thoughts on Anger

Anger is a primary emotion. It resides in Nabal, and David. Nabal does not learn from this lesson and David has to learn his lesson from a wise woman who knows both of these men.

Ephesians 4:26: The text uses two forms of the Greek word for anger, "be angry, but . . ." in the first phrase, "don't rest on anger" or "don't let an angry mood rest on you" in the second phrase. Anger has it's place but it should never have a permanent place in us. (Proverbs 22:24-25)

The Value of Wise Counsel

David needs wise counsel and God provides it, (James 1:5, 19) and on the other side of that issue is my response to life around me, I am called to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. (Proverbs 4:4-9)

Godly Influence - 1 Samuel 25:32-35 - Seeing the big picture is a large part of retreating from anger and rage.

God's Providence - 1 Samuel 25:36-38 - This is the providential hand of God, a controlled and measured hand; unlike David's which was harsh and out of control.

David & Women - 1 Samuel 25:39-44 - Deuteronomy 17:15-20

Conclusion: David manifests a teachable spirit. When Saul was offended in 1 Samuel 21 he looked for a man who would kill all the men associated with that priest and Doeg the Edomite stepped up; that would not be the response of David to the offense of Nabal; by the Lord, Abigail stood in his way.

Abigail's words to David are the longest speech by a woman in the O.T. In it she interceded for her husband and his servants; she prophetically revealed David's destiny as the man who would begin the dynasty of kings in Israel; and she prevented David from judgment for his intended murder; an act of disobedience described in the Torah.