

The repeated use of "handmaid" is indeed wonderful and glorious.

- 2) For her husband, v. 25. Abigail did not deny the dreadful character of Nabal, but she sought to shift the wrath of David from him to her own interest in David's needs.
- 3) For David, v. 26. She pled with David to resist shedding of blood and taking action for which he would later be regretful.

c. Her expectation. vv. 28, 29.

Abigail was certain that God had annointed David to be king. Hence, she assured David of this in three practical phrases:

- 1) He would have a sure house.
- 2) He would be a bundle of life with the Lord.
- 3) He would see his enemies defeated. God would do all of this for him!

Conclusion

Lots of things come into our lives for which we could quite easily give a solid reason for reacting with violence and wrath. God provided this precious story in the Old Testament to remind us that we often need a cool hand on a hot head! If ONLY we could see that God's promises to us will never, no never, fail. He will perfect that which concerneth us (Psa. 138:8). But if our God is not YOUR God through faith on Christ — believe on Him today without delay! Amen.

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"Keep It Cool"

1 Samuel 25:1-44

Introduction

1. Samuel died and the unifying force of His life faded in Israel. David did not go to the funeral, at least, there is nothing recorded about it.

2. Feeling the pressures of hunger and need on the part of his many men, David sent to the nearest depot for food. It was the house of Nabal.

3. The three major persons in this chapter weave a story of pertinent interest to the children of God. There is need for a cool hand upon a hot head! The days in which we live are not unlike those of David, hence the message has particular relevance for even us!

1. NABAL

What a noble heritage this man had. He came from the loins of Caleb, the great man of faith (v. 3; Cf. Numbers 13, 14).

a. His possessions. v. 2.

The listed possessions of Nabal set him out as a wealthy man: 3000 sheep; 1000 goats. Some men are great in what they have, others in what they do, some in what they think, there are those great in character, still others great in His sight. How is it with you?

b. His perversion.

It is sad to read that Nabal was bereft of goodness sufficient to be recorded.

1) He was churlish, v. 3. This particular word means hard-hearted, stern, harsh, obstinate, stubborn. Used of a stiff neck in Deut. 31:27.

2) He was evil, v. 3. The common generic term for evil is used, but it is enlarged by the fact that he is twice referred to as a man of

Belial (vv. 17, 25). This latter word means that he was an unprofitable man, one who is worthless. It is the height of indignity to speak of a man in this fashion, hence, Nabal was indeed dreadful!

- 3) He was foolish. v. 25. The term employed by the Spirit here is that which means stupid, abandoned, and ungodly. A fantastic added word to the beastly heart of this man Nabal. His name means the same foolish also.

c. His vexation. vv. 10, 11.

- 1) Accusation. v. 10. The idea of David raised within Nabal a feeling of antipathy. He called him a runaway slave!
- 2) Question. v. 11. With great personal pride and ownership, Nabal asks why he should take of his own to give to David. The whole is full of bigotry.

2. DAVID

David has not been seen in this light before in Samuel. Here is an entirely new view of the man God had chosen to replace Saul.

a. His moderation. vv. 4-9.

David needed food and provisions. His most likely source was Nabal. The reason for this was David's constant vigil in behalf of Nabal's herdsmen.

b. His emotion.

The pent up passion of David is noted in striking incidents.

- 1) His acting. v. 13. Upon learning that Nabal would not provide food, he ordered military action.
- 2) His thinking. v. 21. The action of Nabal - could only be understood by David as unthankfulness. For all the good David had done Nabal's

men, he responded with hatred and disinterest.

- 3) His threatening. v. 22. This is quite shocking to read from the mouth of David. He projected himself as a guerrilla fighter out to kill!

NOTE: God's servants, even choice ones like David, are not without problems with sin (the nature).

c. His consideration.

It is beautiful to read how David listened to the appeals of Abigail. He responded to her in three areas:

- 1) About God. v. 32. He was gratified that God had sent her to him. How sweetly precious!
- 2) About advice. vv. 33, 34. The word "advice" is the one for flavor of food (Num. 11:8). Abigail had spoken like apples of gold in pitchers of silver and David had accepted her advice. Such understanding!
- 3) About circumstances. vv. 39-42. Bereft of her husband, David called her to himself for marriage.

3. ABIGAIL

a. Her person. v. 3.

Two items are noted about her: she was beautiful and she had good understanding. The latter means she had intelligence (cf. this word in Prov. 3:5; 13:15).

b. Her intercession.

The text provides detailed imploring from Abigail for David to "cool it." She focused her beseeching in three directions:

- 1) For herself. vv. 23, 24, 28, 31. It is really tremendous to see the humility of this woman. With all she knew about Nabal, she directed the fault upon herself and asked for forgiveness.