

1 Samuel 25
Beauty and the Beast Meets Rambo
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

Ch.25 is a pivotal chapter in David's life / Reads like a 6-Act Play

Act I: The Removal of a Godly Influence

➤ death of Samuel v.1 /

Act II: The Rejection of a Graceless man v.2-13

Act III: The Reaction of A man who's Pride is wounded V.12-13 /21-22

Act IV: The Intervention of a Graceful woman v.14-31

Act V: The Response of a Humbled man / v. 32-35

Act VI: The Judgement of a Righteous God v. 36-38

Act I - The Removal of a Godly Influence v.1

Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

This is important, because Samuel had always functioned as a type of father figure for David;

A)A spiritual mentor; the one who believed in David when nobody else did.

B)The Prophets death would mean that this stabilizing influence in David's life was now REMOVED

1)so David feels shaken.

C)So this had to be a very discouraging time & sort of sets the stage for what transpires in the next scene

D)David Goes off the deep end - no Psalms

Act II - The Rejection of a Graceless man v. 2-11

Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb.

A)Here we are introduced to very Rich man named Nabal

B)He lived (Maon, had his business in Carmel), & he was a very rich man

C)The Hebrew word RICH = Heavy means this guy was LOADED!!!!

Simply owning land in that day would have made you wealthy;

A)But to have 3000 sheep and 1000 goats to go w/ it would have put you in the upper .1%

B)Having 3K sheep/ 1K goats would be like saying today that someone had a fleet of Lamborghinis
1)and a couple of vacation homes in Turks & Caicos.

C)There are four kinds of riches.

D)Riches in what you *have*, MATERIAL possessions

Rich in Occupation: You love what you do {Me

A)Rich in Knowledge

B)Sharp intelligent – wealth of Knowledge

C)Rich in Character – Loved and respected by others

Nabal was a very rich man

A)Nabal was on rich in what he had – Material riches is the lowest kind of riches out there.

B)Seneca - *A great fortune can result in great slavery.*
(Slave to my stuff)

C)That was Nabal – his identity was in his possessions he hoarded his riches and lived for himself

Nabal's name means fool –

A)The scriptures define the fool as a man who acts like there is no God – that was Nabal

Most scholars believe that Nabal is probably a nick name given by others – maybe friends

A)Because I'm having a hard time seeing any parent knowingly name their kid 'fool.'

B)What is your babies – Name – Fool – Foolish – who does that ? Asking for trouble

C)I've heard some crazy name stories--one lady who delivered a set of twins—

D)one came out just before midnight, and the other just after midnight, and the mother named them,
1)"Today," and "Tamarra."

Or I heard about a guy in Texas who's last name was Hogg.

A)He had twin girls and named one Ima and the other Ura. Ima... Hogg and Ura... Hogg.

B)That's funny for him, but where was the mom in that situation?

C)So Nabal is probably a nickname – but it fits him

1)Further more told in v.3 He was harsh = *stubborn & Belligerent &*

D)He was *evil in His dealings* = he was dishonest

So the Picture that we get of Nabal is one of a man

A)Who was greedy, demanding, deceptive, ruthless & unfair man

B)Lesson: Riches don't make for happiness

C)Also introduced to his wife - And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance;

The Bible gives Abigail great praise when it says she was of beautiful appearance,

A)Because the only other women who have this Hebrew phrase applied to them are Rachel (Genesis 29) and Esther (Esther 2).

B)And it also describes her as a woman of good understanding

1)She had beauty, and brains as well.

C)SO Nabal's wife was both beautiful and wise, in contrast to Nabal himself

Nabal and Abigail are the OT version of Beauty and the Beast.

A)So you couldn't have two more opposite people getting married.

B)A bad man with big bucks, and a beautiful gal with beauty and brains.

C)Q. How did a woman like this ever get matched up w/ a man like Nabal?

We can understand it in that day of arranged marriages.

A)Her father probably gave her to Nabal in order to benefit from Nabal's riches /

B)Many women were sacrificed for that reason !!!!

C)The Bigger questions is how to Abigails end up with Nabal's today?

1)Especially Christian Abigails?

D)Seen it happen too often

E)Great sisters in the Lord who get hooked up w/ a loser for all the wrong reasons – He is rich

1)Christian guys don't pay attention / they are weird

F)Instead of waiting for God's choice they start hanging out with the first Nabal who shows them attention -

Listen girls – Listen Ladies – A lot of non-Christian guys will be attracted to you.

A)Because they see a sweet spirit in you – They don't know it is the Holy Spirit – attractive

B)They see an innocence in you that is also attractive – so they start showing you attention

C)Here is the mistake I have seen many Christian girls make – they think -he is really nice

1)Maybe I can convert him

D)Never works – get married crying in my office – I married a NABAL –

E)Never have had someone actually say that like that But when they describe hubby – that is what I see

THEY MARRIED NABAL

Note here: There is a growing trend amongst young men today – who are waiting to get married

A)In the US according to Brides.com – the average age of men getting married is 30.2 / women 28.2

B)Those stats are consistent for Christian men and women as well.

C)Back in the 1980's it was 25 for men and 22-23 for women

1) Denise and I were 21-22 when we got married

D) Not an advocate for rushing into marriage but at the same time – why delay

1) Men need to step up to the plate – stopping being boys – become men

Summarize V.4-9

A) V.2 Tells us that Nabal was shearing his sheep – cutting the wool – sell it for a profit

B) Shearing time was considered Harvest time for a sheep rancher – time of celebration

C) Now By ancient traditions, sheep shearing time was a time of lavish hospitality towards others

D) "Sheep-shearing was traditionally celebrated by feasting, with enough and to spare."

1) Especially to those who guarded & Protected your flocks

See it was a common practice in those times for soldiers who were out on Patrol

A) OR stationed in a certain region to Protect shepherds & flocks – of local ranchers

B) Philistine Invaders or Bedouins were a threat in the area –

1) so it was the common Practice of Soldiers or Commandos to Protect them

C) That is what David had his men had been doing for the Shepherds who watched over Nabal's flocks

D) Now at shearing time it was also – the Practice to Repay those soldiers

1) It wasn't required but it was sort of expected kind of like tipping a waiter at a Restaurant

E) So David sends his men to Nabal seeking Compensation

10 Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master.

11 Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

So Nabal responds in a very rude & arrogant way – *Who is David*

A) Now everyone in Israel Knew who David was –

B) Great Battles – his fame had spread throughout the land

C) So Nabal is just being a jerk – *I don't care about David – who does he think he is anyway*

D) Nabal furthers the insult by suggesting that David was just like any other rebellious servant

1) who runs off from his master !!!

Leads to Act III the Reaction of a Man who's Pride was Wounded v.12, 13 Read

12 So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words. 13 Then David said to his men, "*Every man gird on his sword.*" LOCK AND LOAD – MOUNT UP boys So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

David reacts to Nabal's insulting response by saying I will show him who I am – His Inner Rambo comes out

A) David is like – He has no clue who he is dealing with

B) David said to his men, "*Every man gird on his sword.*"

C) Way over reaction – 400 men – like using a SHOTGUN to kill a COCKROACH

V.21,22 See David's intent

21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. 22 May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

A) David was intent on Massacre – We are going to kill all the men – before morning light

B) His eyes are beaming Red – Blood red – WHY?

C) David's pride was wounded here !!!!

1) Pride always responds in the flesh

C) David who responded so well to Saul's threats and pursuits –

1) Gets totally in the flesh here – because his pride was wounded.

The smallest package I ever saw was a man wrapped up wholly in himself. -- Billy Graham,

Now before we are too hard on David – Have you ever done something for someone –

A) They didn't say thank you? Didn't respond

B) "See if I do that for them again" ! Pride

1) Why did you do it in the first place to bless them or to get a pat on the back ?

C) David is becoming very small here – because of his wounded pride.

Act IV The Intervention of a Graceful Woman

14 Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them. 15 But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. 16 They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep. 17 Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him." 18 Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 19 And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

So When Abigail hears how her husband responded to David's request after months of benefiting from David's Kindness/ she INTERVENES

A) See what we can learn from Abigail's intervention

B) 1st She acted quickly. Since she was *a woman of good understanding* she knew that time was of the essence, 1) something had to be done quickly- V.18 She made haste

C) She puts together quite a spread 200 loaves of bread . . . two skins of wine five sheep already dressed /

1) 100 clusters of raisins: and sends

D) Shows you the wealth that Nabal had – all of this food was just on hand.

E) She has all servants bring it all to David and his men

20 So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.

A) Now you have two caravans. One is a caravan of retaliation. That's David.

B) And the other is a caravan of reconciliation. That's Abigail.

C) 2nd Thing we notice is she came in Humility

23 Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground.

A) She humbles herself before David by bowing down Before him

B) Starting in V.24 she refers to David as my lord – 14 times – another sign of her humility and respect

C) It is hard to be mad at someone who approaches you in a humble fashion – RESPECT

24 So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.

25 Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him

He's named "stupid," he is stupid.

A) Ladies, this is not exactly a model for how you should talk about your husband,

B) But when there's a band of soldiers coming to kill all the males in your house,

1) you do what you have to do.

But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. I love this: "David, this wouldn't have happened if I had been involved. NEXT time you come--ask to speak to the lady of the house."

26 Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging

yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. 27 And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.
28 Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant.

3rd Thing Abigail does – she asks for forgiveness for something that wasn't even her fault

A)Forgive the trespass of your maidservant

B)Like she is saying – Forgive me for not paying enough attention to notice the men you sent For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days. 29 Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling. 30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, 31 that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."

4th thing Abigail reminds David of his Destiny.

A)You are going to be King one day and you don't want a massacre like this to stain your legacy

B)You don't want it said of you that you shed blood without cause

C)This is perhaps the single best thing that Abigail said;

David consider your Legacy

A)One day when you come to the throne and people tell the story about how you became King

B)Do you really want this to be a part of your Story?

C)Where you got insulted by a foolish man – and you killed a bunch of innocent people in response?

Men listen to me: Dads listen to me – this is great counsel.

A)One day friends and family are going to be talking about your Life –

B)What do you hope they say about you?

C)I love when my family gets together and we start talking about my Dad – Great stories

1)Incredible impact –

D)People in our church tell me often – I miss your dad! – Legacy –Some people liked him more than me

Interesting is that probably wouldn't have been the case if my Dad had not come to Christ.

A)My Dad became a follower of Jesus at 40 – he died at age 87

B)His life was marked by such a dramatic transformation.

C)His 2nd half of life was incredible as a follower of Jesus – Impact was endless

D)Such a caring and generous man!

1)Discipled men in our Church.

Now Some of you right now are thinking I think it is too late for me – too many mistakes

A)Messed up too many times – My Legacy is not going to be a good one.

B)I would say this: It is never too late to start!

C)Think of it this way: NFL there have been some great 2nd half come backs

1)Chargers Raiders Rams opponents ?

Trivia time no using your phones

A)Super Bowl 51 8 yrs ago - the Patriots were behind 28-3 at half time

B)Tom Brady led an incredible comeback and the patriots won that game 34-28

1)Anyone remember who that game was against? Falcon

C)Here is a Harder one: Wild Card game – the Bills were trailing 35-3 at half time

D)Incredible 2nd half comeback to win the game 41-38

1)Anyone remember who they were playing? – Houston Oilers

Here is my point- Everyone remembers the great 2nd half comeback –

A)Most people forget the team that had an incredible first half only to collapse.

B)It is never too late to start following hard after Jesus
1)Never too late to make an IMPACT

C)You younger dads who are crushing it now – Proud of you – Awesome
1)Finish Strong!

Some of you might be thinking I am in the 4th quarter of life – Surely it is too late for me.

A)Listen to this: Tom Brady has the most 4th quarter comebacks at 55 wins

B)Peyton Manning is 2nd at 45 wins – Ben Roethlisberger is 3rd with 44 wins
1)Drew Brees is 5th at 38 wins

You know what those 4 guys all have in common?

A)Brady and Manning are currently in the Hall of fame – Brees and Roths will be

B)All for are considered 4 of the greatest QB's of all time.

C)Now I know football is different than life, - but I know this to be true in both

D)How you perform in the 2nd half and in the 4th quarter of football and life
1)Is what people remember the most.

So Abigail Approaches David in Humility and Respect

A)Asks for forgiveness

B)She reminds David of his Destiny – it works

The Result ACT V The Response of a humbled man 32 –35

32 Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!

33 And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.

34 For indeed, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had

hurried and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!"

35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

Now here you have a great example of the proverb that says life and death are in the power of the tongue.

A)Her words brought life to a situation that would have ended in death for all of the males of Nabal.

B)David thanks God for Abigail's appeal, and receives her advice.

C)Much can be learned from Abigail's approach to diffusing a bad situation

David knew that God had spoken to him – through Abigail that day.

A)David was being reminded of an important lesson – our hurt feelings never justify disobedience

B)When others sin against us, we may *feel* justified in sinning against them,

1)We can Rationalize that they deserve what I am going to do to them.

C)Two wrongs don't EVER make a Right

Act VI THE JUDGEMENT OF A RIGHTEOUS GOD

36 Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.

37 So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.

He had Had a Stroke

This guy really is foolish. He's watching Monday night chariot races with his buddies, getting drunk.

A)Totally oblivious to the impending doom that's coming upon him.

B)Abigail realizes – he is drunk – I am not even going to try and talk to him – WISDOM

C)But in the Morning – she does talk to him – tells him what she did and all she gave to David that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.

He had Had a Stroke

D)This man was so greedy and wicked – that was his reaction

38 Then it happened, after about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

E)10 days later the Lord puts him out of his misery

Jesus may have had Nabal in mind when He taught the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:15-21).

A)That parable describes a man who had everything – *eat drink & be merry Lord says You fool tonight your soul is required ... rich toward*

B)If your riches are yours, why don't you take them with you to the other world? Benjamin Franklin

C)Can't take it with you but you can send it ahead

Money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; amusements but not happiness; religion but not salvation--a passport to everywhere but heaven.

D)Where you invest your time – resources and energy will be a part of your Legacy and Reward

Quickly Close 3 lessons from this story today

A)#1 Don't be a Nabal – Don't just live for the moment - Think about your legacy

B)Remember - Blessed to be a blessing

#2 Ladies Don't let a difficult marriage keep you from being a blessing to others

A)If you are married to a Nabal – don't let that hinder you from following Jesus

B)Realizing that you can be a blessing to your family – church family

C)Consider all the lives that were saved by Abigail's actions

I read a story of a young Pastor who was talking about his grandmother

A)How she was the only Christian in his family –

B)he said she faithfully stayed in an environment that was lonely –

1)she was often ridiculed by her family for following Jesus

C)But then this young pastor said – he watched as one by one, every single grandchild got saved.

1)Including him

D)Now all of the grandchildren are following Jesus all because of this grand mother

1)Who chose to stay and shine in a difficult situation

If you are in that sort of Situation today – I pray that story and Abigail's story inspire you

A)Too keep living for Jesus – Keep shining –

B)You might not be making an impact on your husband – but you are blessing to others

C)Your faithfulness to Jesus and your family will have a lasting impact

Finally Lesson #3 David isn't the King we are looking for!

A)In some ways, I wish this story ended with David relenting of his desire to take vengeance on Nabal,

B)But it doesn't

39 So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head."

And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.⁴⁰ When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."

Lame Marriage proposal –Sends his servants to ask for her hand – {Single guys – not a good idea

41 Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."⁴² So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens; and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of

Jezeel, and so both of them were his wives. 44 But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

Note V.44 Saul gave David's wife Michal to someone else

So David decides to take a New wife in Abigail – so impressed with her

A)"By his marriage with Abigail,

B)it is probable he became possessor of all Nabal's property in Carmel and Maon."

C)But the text – also says V.43 – David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel to be his wife too.

Here we see the first chink in David's Armor as a leader – Compromising taking multiple wives

A)David unfortunately begins to follow the custom of his day to exploit his position as King to take lots of wives.

B)In Deut. 17, God had explicitly warned future Israelite Kings not to do this.

C)God instructed the King of Israel – not to multiply Horses – Confidence not in Military might

D)Not to multiply gold and silver – Confidence in their wealth.

E)Not to Multiply wives – The Marriage covenant was sacred picture of Christ and his Church

1)David's first step into compromise – led to more

This chapter is one of the first indications that David may not be the promised King we are looking for.

A)You see, up until this point he's seemed like he was.

B)David was the humble shepherd boy who trusted God – faith in God – faithful to God

C)Up until now he has carried himself with grace and trusted God in impossible circumstances.

But here we see, in this chapter-- FIRST, a lapse in faith where David succumbed to a vengeful spirit; A)And 2nd, he starts to leverage his Kingly privilege to multiply wives in direct disobedience to a command of God.

B)We're just a few chapters into David's story,

1)And already our hearts are beginning to yearn for a King more righteous than David.

C)Reminder: Our salvation will never come from man, no matter how strong or righteous they appear.

For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is none righteous--no, not one.

D)Even David will fail us. Your dad will fail you. Your spouse will fail you. I will fail you!

As we step back and look at this story: You know who really reminds of Jesus – NOT DAVID

A)It is Abigail

B)Think about it, she is a wise, discerning sage who rides in on a donkey, humbles herself,

C)Who then takes all the blame for what's happened on herself (even though she is innocent).

D)She offers a meal of peace- which btw happens to be a meal of a LAMB

E)And by her heart and bravery she secures the salvation of many.

Doesn't that remind us of Jesus who humbled Himself - rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey.

A)Who was innocent but took the blame upon himself – the sin of the world in going to the cross –

B)Who offered himself up at the LAMB of God – the sacrifice of the world

1)To secure Salvation for many

C)For anyone who would put their faith and trust in him – His sacrifice for sin

1)His Resurrection from the dead

D)The True King we are searching for is not David – it is Jesus the son of David –

1)Is Jesus your King today?