

## **The Sacrificial Gift** **1 Samuel 25**

### **Introduction:**

1. This chapter begins with some sadness. Samuel, the great prophet and judge, dies.
2. David was in the wilderness of Paran, still trying to stay one step ahead of King Saul.
3. It is here that we are introduced to a wealthy man by the name of Nabal. To describe this man in very simple terms, he was a jerk. He was a complete fool (vs. 2-3, 25). The best thing he had going for him was his wise and beautiful wife, Abigail.
4. David and his mighty men had protected Nabal's shepherds in the wilderness from raiders (vs. 15-16). They had been very good to Nabal's men, so David sent some of his men to go and ask Nabal for some food and water in return.
5. Nabal totally disrespected David and his men, showed no gratitude towards them, and basically said, "I'm not giving you a slice of bread, now get out of here." vs. 10-11
6. When David's men came back and told him, he was furious. He was hot. David took this as a declaration of war, so he went on his way to destroy Nabal and his men. vs. 13
7. Abigail heard about her husband's evil actions, and so she immediately took action. She prepared a sacrificial gift for David and his men, personally delivered it, and single handedly kept David's wrath from falling on her husband and his men. vs. 35
8. She was a Proverbs 31 woman, married to an April 1st man. They say you can see Christ on every page of God's Word. This godly woman's actions are an incredible picture of the sacrifice Christ made for you and me on the cross.
9. There are some incredible lessons that we can learn here as we examine Abigail's gift.

### **First, her sacrificial gift was absolutely necessary. vs. 1-17**

1. Abigail had not sinned against David, lied to him, or railed on him, but yet she made haste to prepare this gift for David and his men. vs. 18
2. Why was this gift so necessary? Nabal had sinned greatly, and the only way to save the lives of Nabal and all the men was to offer this sacrificial gift. It was life or death!
  - Abigail couldn't stand to sit idly by and watch everyone die. She loved them and knew she had to do something. This is why she offered the sacrificial gift.
3. Almost 2,000 years ago there was another sacrificial gift offered. Jesus Christ gave His very life and body to die on a cross. John 10:11
4. Like Abigail, Jesus' gift was necessary because of the sin of others.
  - Abigail had to offer her gift because of one man's sin - Nabal! vs. 14

- But, before we are too hard on Nabal, I think we all have some Nabal in us. He was selfish, stubborn, obstinate, hard-headed, and had a temper.
  - Did you know that we are all sinners, just like Nabal?  
Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8
  - Jesus offered His sacrificial gift on the cross, not because of His **own** sins (Hebrews 7:27), but because of **our** sins. Galatians 1:4; Romans 5:8
5. Like Abigail, Jesus' gift was offered to help others avoid a sure death sentence.
    - Nabal would have surely died had it not been for Abigail's gift. His sin had led him to the door of death. vs. 17
    - Did you know our sin leads us to the same place? Romans 5:12
    - But praise God for the gift (Romans 6:23)! Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins out of deep love. John 15:13; Ephesians 5:2
  6. How necessary Abigail's sacrificial gift was, but how much more necessary was the wonderful sacrificial gift of Jesus Christ!

### **Second, her sacrificial gift was offered personally. vs. 18-35**

1. Abigail met David and offered her sacrificial gift in total humility (vs. 23-24). She bore **Nabal's** iniquity and sin. This is exactly what Christ did for us.  
1 Peter 2:24, 3:18
2. Abigail's gift was offered for everybody, not just David. She brought enough for all the men (vs. 27). Likewise, Christ's sacrificial gift was offered for every man. He died for the entire world. 1 Timothy 2:6; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2
3. Abigail's gift was offered by one person. She offered it personally, herself. She didn't send a servant or handmaid. What a picture.
4. Jesus' sacrificial gift on the cross could only be offered by Him, nobody else. Only a **sinless** man could choose to die for **sinful** man. Philippians 2:7-8; Romans 5:19
  - Christ did not send an angel or any other creature of heaven. This would not do. He came Himself, personally, to this earth to die for our sins. What a Savior!
5. Abigail's sacrificial gift allowed Nabal and his men to avert the wrath of David, and it brought peace (vs. 33, 35). This is exactly what Christ's sacrifice has done for us. Peace is now possible between us and God. Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20

### **Third, her sacrificial gift had to be received. vs. 36-39**

1. Abigail took Nabal's sin upon herself and interceded for him by bringing this gift (vs. 24, 28). But, David was the offended party and he had to **accept** it. If her gift was rejected and wasn't sufficient, then Nabal would have still received wrath and judgment from David.
  - But, David received it, and as a result peace came to her entire household.  
vs. 35
2. All of us have sinned against God. We have offended the righteousness and holiness of God. Christ's sacrifice was on our behalf. He interceded for us, but it had to be accepted of the Father.

3. Praise God, it was! Christ's sacrifice was sufficient for you and me. How do we know? God raised up Christ from the dead! This was the proof (the receipt, if you will) that our sins were paid in full by Christ. Hebrews 9:24, 26, 10:12
4. But now, the decision is up to us. Will we gladly receive Christ's payment and believe on Him completely to save us, or will we harden our hearts and refuse His gift?
5. So many people are like stubborn Nabal. When Abigail told Nabal about the gift she offered, rather than humbling his heart, his heart became as a stone (vs. 37). So many people hear the good news of Jesus Christ and His gift, but their hearts are like a stone.
  - Instead of being humbled by Christ's sacrifice and receiving Him as their Savior, their hearts grows harder and harder.
6. Nabal died because of his hardened heart (vs. 38). Many people will die in their sins and spend eternity apart from God because of their hardened hearts.
7. The sacrificial gift of Jesus has been offered on the cross, but it doesn't do us any good unless we humble our hearts and receive it.
8. It is our choice to either receive or reject the gift! May we not be like Nabal, but may we gratefully accept and receive Christ and the gift of eternal life today!  
Romans 10:9