

# Making Promises

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## Part 6: The Kingdom

### Review

- David saved the town of Keilah, but Saul, thinking he had David hemmed into the city, pursued David to kill him. David consulted the Lord, and knowing that he would be handed over to Saul by the people of Keilah, he fled with his men to the Desert of Ziph.
- The Ziphites turned out to be loyalists to Saul and twice reported to him on David's movements and whereabouts. Just as Saul had David squeezed into a trap in the wilderness of Maon, word providentially came that the Philistines were attacking the land, and Saul had to break off at the very moment when victory seemed to be within his grasp. David and his men escaped to Engedi.
- Saul pursued David to the caves of Engedi. While Saul had stepped inside the cave, David and his men had an opportunity to kill Saul. However, David refrained from striking down the Lord's anointed, and David's mercy led to a temporary cease-fire between the two.

### David and The Fool

- Samuel died. David had heard of a wealthy man named **Nabal** who lived at Maon and owned extensive lands and flocks at Carmel. On the verge of starvation, David requested that Nabal replenish him and his men (**1 Sam. 25:1-7**).
  - ▶ David had refrained from the typical outlaw's practice of **appropriating property**, and by the admission of Nabal's own men, David had provided protection to Nabal's shepherds without repayment (**1 Sam. 25:15**).
  - ▶ Apparently, because David was a **Judaeen** and believed he was suffering for a righteous cause, he felt that his fellow citizens should afford him some relief. This brings him to request of Nabal to send him a supply of food and other provisions to sustain his men (**1 Sam. 25:8**).
  - ▶ Nabal flatly refused, at which point David set out to take what he wanted by force and punish Nabal at the same time for his **selfishness** (**1 Sam. 25:9-13**).
- Nabal's wife **Abigail** became aware of David's intentions and prepared the materials David had demanded. She met him on the road, offered him her goods, and begged him not to kill her husband. (**1 Sam. 25:14-25**).

- ▶ David **granted** her request and withheld his men from attacking Nabal and taking from his possessions, and he sent Abigail on her way (**1 Sam. 25:32-35**).
- ▶ When Abigail arrived back at home, she intended on telling her husband what had happened, but Nabal was having a **drunken feast**. In the morning when Nabal awoke from his night of partying, Abigail informed him of his narrow escape, at which point he suffered a **heart attack** and died 10 days later (**1 Sam. 25:36-38**).
- ▶ Following the death of Nabal, David took Abigail as his **wife** and Saul annulled David's marriage to **Michal**, giving her to Palti the son of Laish. David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel as his wife (**1 Sam. 25:39-44**).
- In chapter 24 David is the **restrainer**; he will not harm Saul himself or permit his men to do so. But in chapter 25 David must be **restrained**. Four times the story confesses Yahweh's restraining action (**1 Sam. 25:26, 33, 34, 39**), once in Abigail's counsel, three times in David's gratitude.
  - ▶ The task of establishing God's kingdom can never be fully entrusted to **human instruments**: Eli honored his sons above Yahweh; Saul will not be ruled by Yahweh's word; Samuel would have chosen another Saul as king; David would have greased the kingdom path with Nabal's blood.
  - ▶ There will be only one Servant who could be entrusted with the kingdom—he will be **wisdom personified** (**Matt. 11:28-30**), and he will understand that kingdom glory came from enduring the hostility of the Nabals against him (**Heb. 12:3**).

## Polygamy

- Despite numerous examples of **polygamy** cited in the OT, there is no doubt that the vast majority of the Israelites were **monogamous**. There are no examples given of large polygamous marriages in the families of commoners.
  - ▶ As implied by **Hebrew law** (**Ex 20:17; 21:5; Lv 18:8, 16, 20; 20:10; Nm 5:12; Dt 5:21**), monogamy seems to have become the norm by the time of the monarchy, king such as David and Solomon did not follow Hebrew traditions in this matter.
  - ▶ In the post-exilic period marriages were predominantly monogamous, although they were being terminated increasingly by **divorce**. In the NT period monogamy seems to have been the rule, although persons such as Herod the Great were polygamous. Christ taught that marriage was for the lifetime of the partners, and if a man divorced his wife and married another woman during his previous spouse's lifetime, he committed **adultery** (**Mt 5:27-32**).

## Part 6: The Kingdom

<p><b>1 Sam. 25:1-7</b></p>	<p>1 Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. 2 And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. 4 David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. 5 So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name. 6 And thus you shall greet him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. 7 I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:15</b></p>	<p>Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:8</b></p>	<p>Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.' "</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:9-13</b></p>	<p>9 When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited. 10 And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. 11 Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" 12 So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. 13 And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:14-25</b></p>	<p>14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. 15 Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. 16 They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. 17 Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him." 18 Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. 19 And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. 20 And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. 21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. 22 God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him." 23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. 25 Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:32-35</b></p>	<p>32 And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! 34 For as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male." 35 Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition."</p>

<p><b>1 Sam. 25:36– 38</b></p>	<p>36 And Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, 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. So she told him nothing at all until the morning light. 37 In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. 38 And about ten days later the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:39– 44</b></p>	<p>39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord who has avenged the insult I received at the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing. The Lord has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife. 40 When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, "David has sent us to you to take you to him as his wife." 41 And she rose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your handmaid is a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." 42 And Abigail hurried and rose and mounted a donkey, and her five young women attended her. She followed the messengers of David and became his wife. 43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and both of them became his wives. 44 Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was of Gallim.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:26</b></p>	<p>Now then, my lord, as the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, because the Lord has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal.</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:33</b></p>	<p>Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand!</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:34</b></p>	<p>For as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male."</p>
<p><b>1 Sam. 25:39</b></p>	<p>When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the Lord who has avenged the insult I received at the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing. The Lord has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife.</p>
<p><b>Matt. 11:28– 30</b></p>	<p>28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."</p>
<p><b>Heb. 12:3</b></p>	<p>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.</p>
<p><b>Ex. 20:17</b></p>	<p>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."</p>
<p><b>Ex. 21:5</b></p>	<p>But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'</p>
<p><b>Lev. 18:8</b></p>	<p>You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.</p>
<p><b>Lev. 18:16</b></p>	<p>You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.</p>
<p><b>Lev. 18:20</b></p>	<p>And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.</p>
<p><b>Lev. 20:10</b></p>	<p>"If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.</p>
<p><b>Num. 5:12</b></p>	<p>"Speak to the people of Israel, If any man's wife goes astray and breaks faith with him,</p>
<p><b>Deut. 5:21</b></p>	<p>" 'And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'</p>
<p><b>Matt. 5:31–32</b></p>	<p>31 "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.</p>