

LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Beauty and the Beast

1 Samuel 25

David, Nabal and Abigail

1 Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah.

Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon. ^[a] 2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. 3 His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.

4 While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. 5 So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. 6 Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'

7 " 'Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. 8 Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.' "

9 When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited.

10 Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. 11 Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

12 David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. 13 David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

14 One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. 15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. 16 Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. 17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."

18 Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs ^[b] of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 19 Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

20 As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward

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her, and she met them. 21 David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. 22 May God deal with David, ^[c] be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"

23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said: "My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. 25 May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent.

26 "Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal. 27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you. 28 Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. 29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. 30 When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, 31 my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant."

32 David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. 33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 34 Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."

35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."

36 When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. 37 Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. 38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head."

Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. 40 His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, "David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife."

41 She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, "Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master's servants." 42 Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David's messengers and became his wife.

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Sunday, May 11

Big Idea: Hearts are formed when we willingly respond to God as He speaks to us through the lives and words of others.

Key Verse: *1 Samuel 25:32-33*

"David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands."

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions. Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders. Read the passage.

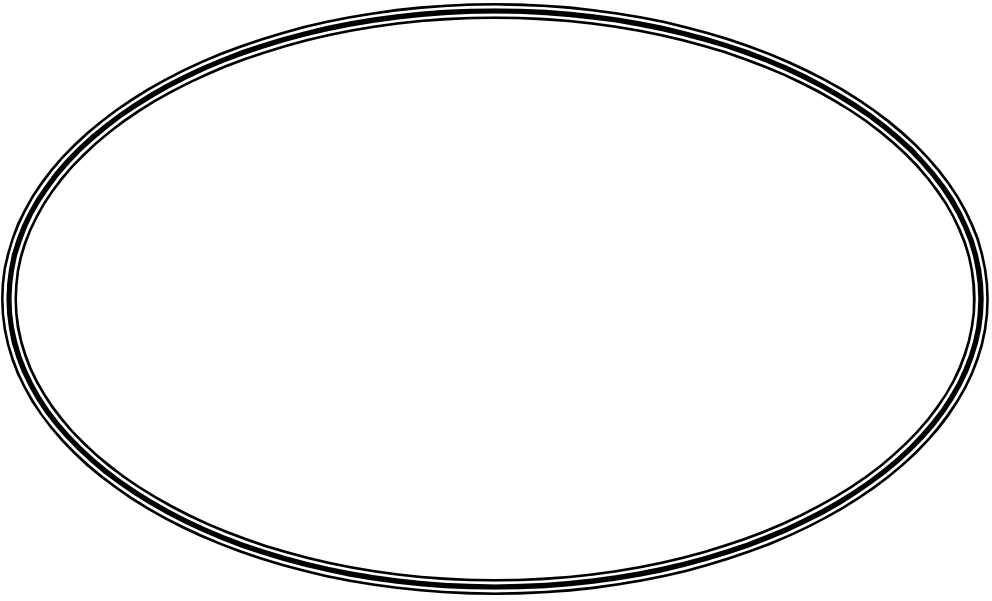
Discussion Questions: Our big idea talks about our hearts being formed when we respond to God as He speaks to us through the lives and words of others. Knowing that as a truth and experiencing that as a truth can be vastly different things. The focus of this study is to look at how we can respond to God as He speaks to us through others.

1. Refresh your memories on what those four movements were in the transformation dynamic. (*See point 2 in leaders notes*). Look at this chapter and determine where these movements are in David's life: Does he, and if so how does he, attend to the moment, turn toward God, step forward in faith and rise to a new level.
2. **The passage introduces us to three characters: who are they? What role does each character play?**
3. Which character do you identify with the most?
4. David is faced with some interesting challenges in our passage. What are the challenges he is faced with and how does he respond to those challenges? What role does Abigail play in his response to those challenges? How does David respond to Abigail?
5. **We respond to the God as he speaks through others by**
 - a) **Knowing our Abigail—who has played the role of Abigail in your life?**
 - b) **Listening to our Abigail—what has your Abigail said to you? Using the page attached spend some time thinking about the window and the mirror Tom spoke about. What do you see in the mirror that tells you about the person you are now? What do you see in the window about the person you might become if your heart is formed after God's own heart?**
 - c) **Responding to our Abigail—what do you need to do, or what does God need to do in you, for the mirror picture to become the window picture? Spend some time thinking through the transformation dynamic in a more practical, personal manner for you.**
6. **Take some time in prayer and ask God to do what He needs to do in you, or to show you what you need to do. Invite God to work in you.**

Leader's Notes

1. *This series will be looking at how hearts are formed. This is an ideal opportunity to look back at the discussions we have had from Change of Heart and Interior Redesign and take another few steps down the road of transformation.*
2. *Bryan shared a dynamic illustration with us about how everyday events can become transformational moments. They represented a spiral or flywheel with four movements: 1) Pay Attention; 2) Turn Toward God; 3) Step Forward in Faith; 4) Rise to a New Level.*

Mirror



Window

