

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

23 October 2021

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

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contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

“I’m a strong black woman, and I cannot be intimidated. I cannot be undermined.” Maxine Waters



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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Abigail
Pages 23-25

AWARENESS

Abigail lost no time... (1 Samuel 25:18)

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Name Meaning

- Father of Joy or cause of Joy
- Her name was likely given her by the villagers of her husband's estate.

Family Connection

- Scripture gives no clue as to Abigail's parentage or genealogy.
- She is married to Nabal whose name means "a fool". Nabal is described as "the man churlish and evil in his doings" (1 Samuel 25:3). Churlish means, a bear of a man, harsh, rude and brutal.
- Nabal was also a drunken wretch, as well as being unmanageable and stubborn and ill-tempered who was most like an unbeliever who lowered his knee to the god of this world and not the God of his father.

Brains and Beauty

- Abigail is as a woman of good understanding and of a beautiful countenance.
- Her loveliness and intelligence went hand in hand, with her intelligence emphasizing her physical attractiveness.
- A beautiful woman with a beautiful mind as she had is surely one of God's masterpieces.

Charm and Wisdom

- She knew God and in spite of her unhappy circumstances she remained faithful.
- Her own soul, like that of David, was "bound in the bundle of life with the Lord God."
- She possessed in harmonious combination two valuable qualities – the tact of a wise wife and the religious principle of a good woman.
- True to the significance of her name, she experienced that in God her Father there was a source of joy enabling her to be independent of the adverse, trying circumstances of her miserable home life.

Confidence In God

- Abigail, in harmony with her many attractions was the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.
- David was equal with Abigail in wisdom and piety (the quality of being religious or reverent) for he was "prudent in matters...and the Lord [was] with him." (1 Samuel 16:18)

What Had Happened Was

- David was an outlaw because of Saul's hatred and lived in the hills with 600 followers.
- Having helped Nabal's herdsmen out, being in need of food for his little army, David sent a kind request to Nabal for help.

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- Nabal bluntly refused to give David a crumb for his hungry men and dismissed David as a marauding hireling.
- Angered, *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.*" (1 Samuel 25:13)

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The Peace Maker

- Abigail, learning from the servants of David's request and her husband's rude refusal, unknown to Nabal, acted with thought, care and great rapidity.
- She gathered food and wine sufficient she thought for David's immediate need and went to meet David and his men.
- With discreet tact Abigail averted David's just anger over Nabal's insult by placing at David's feet food for his hungry men.
- She also revealed her wisdom in that she fell at the feet of David as an inferior before a superior.

A Great Need

- Although as a Hebrew woman she was restricted by custom of her time to give counsel only in an emergency and in the hour of greatest need, she made an appeal to David and captivated his heart.
- Possessing heavenly intelligence, self-control, common sense and vision, she exercised boundless influence over a great man and marked herself out as a truly great woman.
- The intervention of Abigail in the nick of time teaches us that when we have wisdom to impart, faith to share, and help to offer, we must not hesitate to take any risk that may be involved.
Thoughts?

God Was In It

- Abigail did not leave her godless husband or sought a divorce from him but remained a loyal wife and the protector of her worthless partner...she clung to the man to whom she had sworn to be faithful.
- But the hour of deliverance came 10 days after her return home when by a divine stroke, Nabal's life ended...death came as a great divorcer.
- When David hearkened to the plea of Abigail and accepted her person, he rejoiced over being kept back by her counsel from taking into his own hands God's prerogative of justice (Romans 12:19).
- After Nabal's death, David "communed with Abigail" (25:39), asked for her hand in marriage, she married him in faith and she entered upon a happier career.

November 27th – Queen of Sheba

Pages 198-200

December 25th – No Session – Merry Christmas!

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SKILL

Step Fourteen: Power

“My life is not my own, to You I belong, I give myself, I give myself to You.”

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1. Don't let fear hold you back – move forward in God's courage and wisdom. Read 1 Samuel

25:18. No matter how difficult or threatening the situation, God's power within us is greater than we can ever fully see or comprehend. He is able to use any of us, even those who feel insignificant or powerless, for His greater good. Instead of hiding or cowering or blaming her husband, Abigail moved forward, towards the danger, knowing that God was surely with her. And doing so saved her household.

2. Be humble and kind, seek peace with those around you. Read 1 Samuel 25:23-24. Abigail had the courage and strength to shoulder the blame for something she didn't do. She begged forgiveness on behalf of her entire household, and God used that moment to show David how wrong it would be to take revenge in his own way and kill these innocent servants. This was a pivotal moment for Abigail because she had no idea how David would respond. But still, she chose to do the right thing. She looked beyond herself. She acted with humility and compassion. She sought to make peace with the very one her own husband had angered. She asked for a chance to speak and right the wrong.

3. Our words and actions are powerful. Look to the bigger picture. Read 1 Samuel 25:28-29. Abigail knew her words and actions were powerful and carefully thought through each and every one. She understood that the bigger picture of this story was much more significant than that one moment, so she reminded David of how important it was that God was building greatness in his life, that the Lord Himself was fighting for David.

4. A true warrior is loyal and faithful, thinking of others before themselves. Read 1 Samuel 25:30-31). Abigail fought to protect her husband and her house. She was not thinking only of herself, but of all those she loved. She was loyal and honored God and her family in all she did. She chose to show great respect towards David, reminding him that God would bring to his life blessing and every good thing He had already promised. And with wisdom and discernment, she asked David for only one thing at the end of her plea, that when God brought him success, he would remember her. Abigail was incredibly faithful in her words, her actions, and in her demonstration of love for the servants. She knew that if she could win David's favor in this situation, her workers and family would be spared.

5. Remember, God will fight for you. You are never alone. Read 1 Samuel 25:32-33. God fought for Abigail, just as He so faithfully fights for us still today. He did not leave her on her own but gave her great favor in the sight of David. Through her good judgment, and choosing to act humbly and bravely, God showed Himself strong on her behalf, saving David from going to battle, and rescuing Abigail and her servants from the evil of Nabal.

Source: <https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/things-women-learn-from-abigail-bible.html>

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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on how God can use me no matter what my circumstances are and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

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