

Dealing with Fools

September 1, 2024
1 Samuel 25:1-31

Pastor Mark Turner
Oak Community Church (PCA)

Samuel Dies

- Great servant of God
- A mere 20 words – remember it really is God’s story, not ours!

An Odd Couple

- man described: rich, heavy, not nice - then name given Nabal=fool
- Abigail^{my divine father is joy}; discerning & beautiful like Esther^{2:7}, Rachel^{Gen29:17}
- They are truly an Odd Couple
- Note Abigail is described much like David^{1Sam16:12,18}

A Rich Fool & His Actions

- It is sheep shearing time – time of celebration & settling accounts
- David & men had helped & protected Nabal & shepherds^{1Sa25:15-16}
- David has needs – 600 men
- ANE hospitality was not an option, David was gracious in approach
- Illus: Contrast Confederate Army of N.VA vs Union Army of TN – one respected property; while other left scars a 100yrs later!
- David showed himself to be a good king – protection, care
- So David should have been rewarded for his service
- Nabal was a fool in response - insulting & belligerent
- Nabal was a fool^{Ps14:1}; self-centered¹¹ didn’t see God’s hand
- Nabal was miserly^{Pr11:24,28} and trusted in his own riches
- David didn’t take this answer very well – strapped on swords 3x¹³

Why Did David Respond this Way?

- David was not on guard from this attack -unexpected:Peter^{Jn18:10,17}
- David’s failure was after a great victory - he had just spared Saul, wasn’t dependent upon God’s grace & guidance. Paul^{2Cor12:10}
- David’s failure reminds us it is not about us. All for Jesus^{1Pet2:21-23}

A Godly Woman - Abigail

- An unnamed servant saves the day - goes to Abigail, not Nabal¹⁴⁻¹⁷
- Abigail had it hard with Nabal – could have used opportunity
- Abigail made haste¹⁸ to protect her husband & family
- Used Jacob’s trick^{Gen33} of sending good stuff ahead
- Didn’t inform husband, avoided quarrel and solved problem
- David is still very mad²¹⁻²¹; KJV course description of men
- Abigail comes graciously and humbly to David
 - 1- Abigail humbled herself - treated David as superior
 - 2- A took the blame quickly - didn’t push blame on David
 - 3- A offers restitution²⁷ and honors David publicly²⁸
 - 4- A asks for forgiveness²⁸ - points to God’s grace
- Abigail’s Appeals:
 - 1- to not respond in kind²⁵⁻²⁶. Repay evil w/good^{Rom12:17-21}
 - 2- to God’s grace - ‘sling’ to remind David of God’s grace
 - 3- remind David he is God’s servant²⁸ - act accordingly

The Gospel According to Abigail

- to whom will David go now that Samuel is dead? God gave Abigail!
- Like Abigail - Jesus came to us in a humble way^{Phil2:7}
- Like Abigail - Jesus took guilt upon himself^{1Pet2:24}
- Like Abigail - Jesus gave what we needed - perfect obedience^{Rm5:19}
- Abigail appealed for forgiveness based upon God’s grace^{Jn8:11} and called for holy actions^{1Thes4:3}