

ORDINARY PEOPLE
ABIGAIL
I SAMUEL 25:1-42

Abigail! The meaning of her Hebrew name can be translated "the delight of her father." We, too, are each the delight of our heavenly Father, whose character we desire to show to those around us. One way we can be helped toward this goal is to observe the motivations and principles behind the actions of the women of Scripture. Although their circumstances and tasks were dictated by their culture, their godly principles and motivations are timeless and, therefore, applicable to *our* lives.

Read I Samuel 25:1-42.

Verse 1 gives us the setting for the account that follows. David had previously been anointed king by the prophet Samuel at the command of the Lord (I Samuel 16:1-13). Following this David had been in Saul's court for a time, but although he won the hearts of the people he also incurred Saul's jealous hatred. Therefore, at Samuel's death David went down to continue his exile in the wilderness of Paran to wait until the Lord removed Saul from the throne.

One other note. Although there was at this time no direct word of God on wives being submissive to their husbands, there had been much revealed on the duty of hospitality to strangers (Proverbs 31:20; Deuteronomy 23:4) and especially so on feast days or festivals which were holy to the Lord (Nehemiah 8:10-12). In light of these facts let's not debate Abigail's relationship to her husband but let's concentrate on the positive qualities we see that God commended and used.

Read I Samuel 25:2-13.

1. List the main events of these verses.

2. In verse 8 David sent word to Nabal (the word means "worthless man") to *listen* to testimony as to how his workers were treated by David's young men. According to verses 9-11 how did Nabal respond? That is, did he listen?

3. Do you think Nabal really didn't know who David was? (See I Samuel 18:5-7.) Explain.

Read I Samuel 25:14-17.

4. What difference here do you see between Nabal and Abigail?

Read I Samuel 25:18-35.

5. What did Abigail do?

6. Read Proverbs 31:10-31. Do you see any parallels between Abigail and this woman? State the ones that to you are most significant.

7. *Why* did Abigail do what she did (I Samuel 25:17 and 26-31)? Remember, too, *who* David was.

Read I Samuel 25:36-42.

14. What happens in these verses?

I Samuel 25 is one of those packed chapters where we can learn so many things. Let's explore a bit.

15. What did you learn about:

a. listening to others?

b. revenge?

c. what will cause others to bless you?

d. the woman God wants you to be?

16. From this passage what is one area of change you see that God wants to accomplish in you?