

e-concepts

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Observations about Abigail

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We know more about Abigail than any of David's eight wives. Other than Bathsheba's appeal for Solomon to be king, Abigail is the only one of David's wives we hear from in the Scripture. Her appeal in 1 Samuel 25 reveals a lot about her character.

Here are **seven observations** about Abigail.

1. Abigail took the initiative to enter a high-risk situation with a possible solution. She rode alone (i.e. without military support) into a troop of 400 armed men bent on violence. She was willing to give herself, as well as her material goods, to solve an impending disaster. In this situation, David saw himself as a getter, and she functioned as a giver.

Application: The real leader in any situation is always the greatest giver. In every situation, always ask yourself, "How can I serve, how can I give, I can I make a positive contribution to the situation?" For example, when your wife, children, fellow workers or employees are having an issue with somebody. Don't ask, "How can I fix them or the problem?" Ask: "How can I give, serve, or contribute to them?"

2. Before she arrived, Abigail sent the food, which she had gathered, ahead of her with *her young men* (v. 19).

Application: Sometimes, actions speak louder than words. *A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men* (Proverbs 18:16). A gift is not necessarily a bribe; it may also be a sign of good intentions.

3. She placed herself in a position of submission and humility before David. She *fell on her face before David and bowed herself to the ground* (v. 23). Nabal saw David as a servant (v. 10), Abigail saw herself as a servant.

Application: Always assume a position of humility, never be proud of anything. Pride = value independent of God. Humility = value dependent on God.

4. She framed her request to speak in a context of taking the blame for something that was not her fault. *She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame"* (v. 24).

Application: In every situation, always assume less authority and more responsibility than you have been given.

5. Abigail called her husband some very harsh names including a worthless, wicked, or "man of destruction" and "foolish" or "disgraceful."

Application: At times, harsh language is appropriate when it is not slanderous or some ad hominem, like "What an idiot", but it is critical and descriptive like *son of hell*, enemy of all righteousness, or short sighted, lover of ignorance (Matthew 23:15; Acts 13:10).

6. The heart of Abigail's message was a reminder to David that vengeance belongs to God alone (Deuteronomy 32:35). Her point was, David had thus far not taken revenge on Nabal nor killed innocent people. Some day he would be king, and if he refrained from revenge now, he would not have *grief* or a *troubled heart* about it when he was king (v. 31).

Application: Help people think through the long-term consequences of their actions, especially concerning revenge, and especially when they are angry. For God, judgment is justice. For us, judgment should be criticism not justice (see #5 above).

7. Rather than making demands or attempting to negotiate a deal, Abigail came in submission and humility and asked, *When the Lord deals well with my lord, then remember your maidservant*. It is not that Abigail didn't think about herself, that never happens. But she made her desires known in the form of a request, not something she deserved.

Application: Requests are better than demands or deals in developing a relationship – for example, with your spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters in Christ.