



Abigail

“Women Who Dared”

“And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground.” I Samuel 25:23

Abigail is often referred to as a woman of integrity. The Bible tells us she was beautiful, prudent, had great courage, and was godly. That is quite a list of attributes for a woman whose story only takes a few verses in the Bible.

Abigail was the wife of Nabal, an evil and selfish man who had great wealth, but thought only of himself. We meet her after Samuel had died and David asked her husband for food in a strange country. He refused and acted like he knew nothing of what David’s men had done to protect him earlier. However, when they returned one of the servants told Abigail what had happened. David and his men had protected her husband’s men and sheep, but now when David and his men needed help, her husband, Nabal, mistreated David’s men and would not help them.

Abigail had not heard David’s men when they talked to Nabal’s men, but she knew that Nabal was wrong. She and her maids made ready food and drink and took the provisions to David and his men. This was a dangerous journey for her to take. She was going against her husband’s wishes into a ravine filled with an army of men. David had already decided that he wanted nothing to do with any of these people after he had protected them and they were unwilling to share some of their feast with his men. When Abigail met David she fell at his feet and apologized for her husband’s actions. David felt that God had sent her and he offered God’s blessing on her as she returned home. When she returned home, Nabal was having a banquet so she didn’t tell him what had happened. In the morning when she told him, he had a heart attack and died.

When David heard that Nabal has died, he sent for Abigail to be his wife. Again she and her maids got on their donkeys and went to David. She married David and had a son to him.

Abigail realized the danger in going against the wishes of her husband, but had the courage to do what was right. She was courageous because she stood for the right and risked her life for others. As a result of her actions much bloodshed was avoided. She was faithful to God and to David who later became king.

More often than we can probably recall, we are called to take a stand for something we think is right, or to take a stand against what the “crowd” is doing. Older people don’t worry as much about peer pressure as the young do. They want to be accepted. I am reminded of a teenager who was asked by his friends to go out for the evening. He knew where they were going, and responded to his friends that “My parents have plans for tonight, and I have to go along.” Later, the mother who had been in the kitchen and overheard the conversation in the living room asked the son what plans the family had for that evening. He responded that he didn’t know of any, but the parents had always told him they could use him for an excuse and he knew that the planned events for the evening by the other teenagers were something he didn’t want to do and something his parents would not approve. The parents had given that son the confidence he needed to say “No” to the crowd.

Fortunately, some young people are not given a heritage from their parents which enables them to stand against the crowd. Many don’t have that faith behind them, and so they go along with those who seem to accept them. It is the duty of parents and the church to give young people the confidence they need until they mature and can stand alone.

Prayer: Dear God, we know You have promised to be with us always, but we often turn and run when You are there to lead us and stand with us because we fail to have enough faith. Help us to have that faith and realize Your presence each day in situations, and not feel that we are ever alone. Amen.

Questions:

1. Are we willing to display the integrity and courage in our lives that Abigail had?
2. Can we stand up for God’s ways in a non-physical way by speaking out against injustice and interceding for the people who are oppressed mentally, physically, and emotionally?
3. Abigail had many fine qualities. Which of her qualities can we take from this story to make our life and that of the people around us better?
4. What is the responsibility of the older generation to the younger generation? What is the obligation of the church when a child is baptized or joins the church?

5. Is there a child or teenager today who needs your support for security and to learn the difference between what is right or wrong?

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