Between A Rock And A Hard Place

Greg Kline · 1 Samuel 25:1–42

INTRODUCTION

- As you think about life, one of the most difficult components of it is dealing with people.
- David is not the hero of the story. And Nabal is not the hero of the story. Abigail is, as she deals with the two of them.

1 David's Request Is Rejected by Nabal

1 Samuel 25:2–13

- Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm. And they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel.
- Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?
- David's request is rejected by him. Did he have the ability to help David and his men? Yes, of course.

2 A Hero Steps Up: Abigail Acts on the Problem

1 Samuel 25:14–20

- Abigail has built up trust with those around her.
- She was noticed by those around her and trusted to make this right, to make this good.
- But note Abigail acts on the problem. She doesn't just complain.
- That's taking action. That's actually fixing a problem.

3 On Me Alone, My Lord, Be the Guilt

1 Samuel 25:23–31; 1 Samuel 25:32–39

- She fell at his feet and said, On me alone, my Lord, be the guilt.
- She took ownership. Why? Because it wasn't about finger pointing. It was about doing right. It was about sparing innocent blood.
- Abigail humbly, yes, but aggressively and boldly reasons with David, do not do this.
- Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you who have kept me this day from blood guilt, and working salvation with my own hand.
- She kept not only Nabal from having his whole entire household destroyed, she kept David from sin. She made peace where there was none.

4 Nabal Was a Selfish Fool

Matthew 18; Matthew 6

- David's men were providing the very protection that allowed Nabal's household to thrive.
- I have to wonder, am I the rock or the hard place first?

- Do we offer forgiveness to others the way we want forgiveness from God?
- We forget that the only way that we can have forgiveness is the forgiveness that God first has offered us.

5 David Took This Counsel

Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 19:20

- If we're going to deal with these tough situations, we need to be willing to heed the counsel of God.
- Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge. But he who hates reproofs is stupid.
- And when Abigail presented that to him, saying, Trust in God, do not do this. David listened.
- The easiest way to find yourself in a tough dilemma is to think you have the answers, you have the right.

6 A Soft Answer Turns Away Wrath

Proverbs 15:1; Romans 12:17–21; James 4:6

- A soft answer turns away wrath. But a harsh word stirs up anger.
- She was a peacemaker in this very hostile situation.
- Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
- God resists the arrogant but lifts up the humble.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We need to follow Abigail's example of acting today, acting humbly, taking on the blame, not pushing it towards others, and most importantly, pleasing our great God.**

MY NOTES