Dealing With Difficult People

Greg Kline · 1 Samuel 25:2–38

INTRODUCTION

- One of the most difficult things in life is dealing with other people.
- She deals with a fool, who is her husband, whose name Nabal means fool, and also she deals with David, who at that time is a person who is acting rashly, acting out of anger and frustration.
- The haste matters. Taking care of the problems before they get worse, before they fester, before irreconcilable and irrevocable actions happen.

1 Selfishness Makes Everything Worse

1 Samuel 25:10–11; 1 Samuel 25:17; James 3

- First and foremost, selfishness makes everything worse.
- Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I've killed from my shares and give it to men who come from I do not know where?
- Selfishness makes everything worse, and we won't listen to reason when we're caught up in our own self-pity.
- Our selfishness not only makes us look bad, it causes destruction everywhere it reaches.
- Our selfishness will damage relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

2 Wisdom Requires a Listening Ear

Proverbs 12:1; Romans 12:17–21; Proverbs 19:20

- But note David did something wise in the story as well. He was willing to stop and listen.
- Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge. But he who hates reproof is stupid.
- Romans chapter 12 and verse 17 through 21, God tells us very clearly, do not take vengeance. Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.
- Listen to advice and keep instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.
- We need to be willing to accept not only criticism, but also wisdom and most importantly, the will of God.

3 Kindness, Humility, and Love Changes Lives

Proverbs 15:1; Colossians 3:2

- A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- This has to be one of the most obvious proverbs there are? And yet it's one of the most often broken.
- Kindness, humility, and love says, I'm going to act now. I'm going to put aside a matter of who's right and who's wrong. I'll take the blame.
- Stand in the middle. Stand for what's right. Be kind. Take the blame. Be the shield that other people need.

- At some time we're going to need somebody to step up and be our Abigail too.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **The only question is, will I submit to his will? Will I follow after him? Will I show kindness, love, and a willingness to learn?**

MY NOTES