

# After God's Heart

## Lesson 6

1 Samuel 25:1-44

February 10, 2019

### Quick-Trigger Anger

#### Introduction

David had a history of seeking, trusting, and obeying the Lord's will. The news of Samuel's death came at a time when David had been running from Saul for a long time and was probably very tired both emotionally and physically. When Nabal refused David's request for food for his men, David reacted in anger and without seeking the Lord's will. If it were not for the intervention of Abigail to remind David of his true identity as the Lord's son, David would have killed Nabal and sinned against the Lord. Likewise, we need the Holy Spirit to remind us of who we are and that anger and rage are not appropriate responses for us as Jesus followers.

***Memory verse: "David said to Abigail, 'Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.'"—1 Samuel 25:32-33***

Pray and read 1 Samuel 25:1-44. What questions or observations do you have about the passage?

#### What does the passage say?

1. What did the nation of Israel do in response to the death of Samuel? (1 Samuel 25:1)

2. What are the contrasts in the descriptions of Nabal and his wife, Abigail? (1 Samuel 25:2-3)
  
3. What is David seeking for him and his men from Nabal? (1 Samuel 25:8)
  
4. What was Nabal's response to David's request? (1 Samuel 25:10-11)
  
5. How did David respond to this? (1 Samuel 25:12-13)
  
6. What did Abigail do when she heard of Nabal's insult of David, and what was the result? (1 Samuel 25:18-35)
  
7. What finally happened to Nabal? (1 Samuel 25:36-39)

### **What does the passage mean?**

1. "Nabal" means "fool," but Nabal was very wealthy, and it was likely a self-made wealth. How can a person be smart to become wealthy but still be foolish? (Proverbs 19:1-4)

2. On the other hand, Nabal's wife Abigail is described as intelligent and beautiful. Think about and compare Abigail's character and Nabal's character based upon the contrast given in the story. Which showed forethought? Which showed maturity? (Proverbs 15:18)
  
3. Both David and Nabal were insulted or angered in this passage. How were their responses the same and how were they different? Why was David's reaction different than Nabal's? (Proverbs 15:1)
  
4. Read Psalm 37 and compare David's wisdom and words there versus his actions in this passage. What do you think David's thought about his actions in 1 Samuel 25 as he wrote this Psalm?



3. Anger is frequently described as a “secondary emotion,” meaning that it comes from a deeper emotion such as fear, jealousy or pride. What feeling could be the source of David’s reaction to Nabal’s response? When you respond in anger, from where do you sense that anger comes? How do these emotions contrast to the fruit of the spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23)