

## **Series: God's Story: Finding Our Place in His Unfolding Plan**

### **Jun 18, 2017: 1 Sam 25:23-35 – Abigail: A Voice of Integrity**

#### **Skillful Hands and an Upright Heart**

*What convictions did Martin Luther King Junior have, which enabled him to endure such hardship? (Matthew 5:3-12)*

*How did David display "skillful hands and an upright heart?" (1 Samuel 18:30, 24:5-7)*

#### **A Test of Character (1 Samuel 25:1-22)**

*How did MLK and David's private failures affect their reputation? Can you think of any other contemporary examples?*

*What private test did David face in chapter 25, between the two public tests of chapters 24 & 26?*

#### **A Messenger from God (1 Samuel 25:23-35)**

*What would have happened if David had followed through with his intentions? (26, 31)*

*How did God use Abigail to prevent David from making this mistake? What three things did she do to sway him?*

#### **A Call to Community**

*Compared to other Biblical "heroes," it is remarkable how much is said about the community that surrounded David. Who had an influence on him, and how did they contribute?*

*Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Being committed to Christian community can help hold us accountable, to be walking in His way. Have you experienced this? What do you need, now? What could it look like?*

## 1 Samuel 25

<sup>23</sup> When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. <sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. <sup>25</sup> Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name - his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. <sup>26</sup> And now, my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live, since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. <sup>27</sup> And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you.

<sup>28</sup> "Please forgive your servant's presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. <sup>29</sup> Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. <sup>30</sup> When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, <sup>31</sup> my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant."

<sup>32</sup> David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. <sup>33</sup> May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. <sup>34</sup> Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak." <sup>35</sup> Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."