

The “Jerk” and His Wise Wife!

1 Samuel 25

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Mother’s Day was set aside for the “*public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our society.*”
- Some mothers and wives deserve medals for having to live with “jerks”.
- A “jerk” is “*someone who exhibits any selfish thoughts or behavior that are ultimately harmful to others.*”
- Three degrees of “jerkiness”
 - 1st Degree: mildly selfish without meaning harm
 - 2nd Degree: purposefully and willfully manipulate, control, and abuse, but with a conscience
 - Nth Degree: severe manipulation, control, and abuse without a conscience. Sociopathic personality.

The “Jerk” and His Wise Wife!

- 1 Samuel 25:2-3-- “*Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb.*”

A. The “Jerk”-- NABAL

1. **A very successful Agra-businessman** from the Carmel region
2. **He is from the “house of Caleb”**, a descendant of faith-filled, godly Caleb. However he failed to inherit either Caleb’s faith nor his character.
3. **He was “harsh and evil in his doings”.**
 - 2 Samuel 25:4-12-- “*When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, ‘Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: ‘Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have! Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.’ So when David’s young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited. Then Nabal answered David’s servants, and said, ‘Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?’ So David’s young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words.*”
 - a. Customary for shepherds to hire guards to protect the shepherd and the sheep. David and company were hired by Nabal’s men to provide protection.
 - b. But when it came time to pay up, Nabal reneged.
 - c. **The results of Nabal’s response:**
 - 1) **David is steamed and seeks revenge.**
 - 1 Samuel 25:13-- “*Then David said to his men, ‘Every man gird on his sword.’ So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.*”

- 2) **Nabal is living up to his name.** He is a real jerk and everyone close to him knows it.
 - 1 Samuel 25:14-17-- *"Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, 'Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them. But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him.'*

B. His Wise Wife-- Abigail

1. General information

- a. Her name, "Abigail" means "my father's joy"
- b. She is described as a woman of "good understanding" and "beautiful appearance".
- c. *How did this wise woman get hooked up with a "jerk"? Probably through an arranged marriage.*

2. Her wise response to the jerkiness of her husband

a. **Contrary to the "jerk's" decision, she takes action in order to save her family from impending danger.**

- 1 Samuel 28:18-22 -- *"Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. And she said to her servants, 'Go on before me; see, I am coming after you.' But she did not tell her husband Nabal. So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them. Now David had said, 'Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light.'"*
- 1) Some are critical of her actions, believing that by going behind the back of her husband she is being insubordinate to his headship and leadership.
 - 2) God has clearly established lines of authority for society.
 - 3) But there are times when nation's laws may be contrary to God's laws, and we must choose who we will obey.
 - 4) God has established the lines of authority in the home.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:3-- *"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."*
 - 5) But what if the husband is a real "Jerk", involved in things that are illegal, immoral, unethical, and has put his family in mortal danger? Is the submissive wife just to sit back and take the abuse or watch as her family is being hurt or abused?
 - 6) Abigail is commended for the wise course of action she took in saving her family from impending danger.
 - 1 Samuel 25:32-33-- *"Then David said to Abigail: 'Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.'"*

b. **In order to secure the safety of her family, she assumes the guilt for her husband's actions and humbly asks for forgiveness.**

- 1 Samuel 25:23-28a-- *"Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. So she fell at his feet and said: 'On me, my lord, on*

me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant. Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant."

- 1) Abigail does not excuse her husband's actions. She knows he is a jerk.
 - 1 Samuel 25:25a-- *"Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him!"*
- 2) She takes what blame she can, that is, she did not see David's servants when they came. But once she knew of their visit, she took appropriate steps to make right the wrong done to them.
- 3) She throws herself at the mercy of David for his forgiveness.
- 4) Her assuming the guilt of her jerky husband reminds us of someone else who *"knew no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth"*, and yet, upon Him *"was laid the iniquity of us all."*

c. **Believing that God is in control of all things and has a plan for life, she assures David that it is in his best interest to give the "jerk" over to God.**

- 1 Samuel 25:28-31-- *"Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days. Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling. And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel, that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."*
- 1) God is going to make David the next king.
 - 2) David's house will endure.
 - 3) God will protect David from all his enemies for David is fighting the battle of the Lord's.
 - 4) So David, don't take vengeance! Put the matter in God's hands! Save yourself from a guilty conscience and lack of internal peace.
 - 5) Her faith was hammered out in the nitty gritty of life. Her faith was in the LORD and that God would handle her jerky husband. And HE did!
 - 6) With her strong faith in God, she experienced the manifold blessings of God.