### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 25

1Well, shortly thereafter, SamuEl died, and all IsraEl went to mourn him. Then they entombed him inside his house in RamAh.  
  
  
In the meantime, David had traveled to the MaOn Desert. 2And a great man was there who had helped to build CarMel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats; and at the time, he was shearing his flock at CarMel.  
  
3This man’s name was NaBal, and his woman’s name was AbiGail. Now, the woman was not only smart, she was also very pretty; however, her husband [had the reputation for being] hardheaded and dishonest.  
  
4Well, while David was there in the desert, he heard that NaBal the CarMelite was out shearing his flock. 5So David sent 10 of his servants to NaBal at CarMel, and he told them to say:  
  
 ‘May you have peace, 6and may you and yours live a long and healthy life!  
  
 ‘Look, I’ve heard that your shepherds are shearing your sheep. 7And when we saw them out in the desert, we didn’t bother them or take [any of your sheep] as you were leading them to CarMel…  
  
 8‘Just ask your servants and they’ll tell you!  
  
 ‘So now, if we, your servants, have found favor in your eyes... And we hope that we’ve come on a good day... We’re asking you to give whatever you can to your servants and to your son David.’  
  
9So David’s servants went to NaBal and told him all of that in the name of David. 10But NaBal jumped to his feet and asked:  
  
 ‘And just who is this David? Who does this son of JesSe think he is?  
  
 ‘Today, many of his servants are those who’ve run away from their masters!  
  
 11‘So shall I take my bread, my wine, and my sacrifices with which I must pay those who are shearing my sheep and give them to others, when I don’t know who they are or where they’ve come from?’  
  
12And with that, he sent the servants of David on their way…  
  
  
And when they got back, they told David what he said.  
  
13Well, as a result, David told his men to tie on their swords, and then David tied on his sword, and 400 of them followed David, while the other 200 stayed behind to keep an eye on their things.  
  
14Meanwhile, one of NaBal’s servants brought a message about this to [NaBal’s] woman AbiGail, saying:  
  
 ‘Look, David sent messengers from [his camp] in the desert to bless our master, but he sent them away.  
  
 15‘However, [David’s] men were very good to us; for they didn’t get in our way, and they didn’t mistreat us when we were out in the fields. 16In fact, they protected us both day and night while we were watching over the flocks!  
  
 17‘So, think about what you should do, because our master has brought evil down upon his house… He’s being unreasonable, and there’s no way we can talk him out of it!’  
  
18So AbiGail then ran and prepared 200 loaves of bread and 2 large jugs of wine, then she roasted 5 sheep and toasted 5 bushels of grain, and she gathered 10 bushels of raisins and 200 clusters of dried figs, and she loaded it all on some burros.  
  
19Then she said to her servants:  
  
 ‘Take these on ahead… I’ll follow behind.’  
  
But she didn’t say anything to her husband.  
  
20Thereafter, she mounted her burro and traveled around the mountain until she reached David and his men… And they came to greet her.  
  
21Well at the time, David was saying:  
  
 ‘Perhaps I was foolish when I guarded all of NaBal’s things in the desert and didn’t try to take anything. For now he’s repaid my good deeds with evil.  
  
 22‘So, may God [curse] me and add to it if I leave anyone who belongs to NaBal [alive] who can urinate against a wall by [tomorrow] morning!’  
  
23Well when AbiGail saw David, she got down off her burro and fell to her face before him, bowing low.  
  
And she said:  
  
 24‘O my lord, hold me to blame! Please allow your female servant to speak to you, and listen to what I have to say. 25Please, my master; don’t set your heart against this despicable man NaBal.  
  
 ‘His name means foolishness, and he truly is foolish!  
  
 ‘I didn’t see the servants that you sent to my master. 26But, O my lord; as Jehovah lives and as you live, may God keep you from shedding the blood of the innocent!  
  
 ‘For in doing so, you may save your own life… And then may your enemies who are trying to do bad things to you become as NaBal.  
  
 27‘Now, please accept these blessings that I’ve brought to my lord and distribute them among your servants. 28Also, please forgive [me,] your female servant, and may Jehovah make the house of my [husband] one that can be trusted. [I pray that] Jehovah will fight your wars and that He will never find you guilty of doing anything that’s evil.  
  
 29‘If any man chases you and tries to kill you, may Jehovah God save the life of my master… May the lives of your enemies be thrown down as with a sling!  
  
 30‘Yes, may Jehovah do all the good things for you that He said He would do, and may He make you the leader over IsraEl!  
  
 31‘So, please don’t offend your heart by doing this terrible thing to my [husband], and don’t shed innocent blood without a good reason. Please save [him] from himself, and then Jehovah will do good things for you… And don’t overlook your female servant or fail to treat her kindly.’  
  
32Well at that, David said to AbiGail:  
  
 ‘Praise Jehovah the God of IsraEl who sent you to me today!  
  
 33‘And may the way that you’ve handled this matter today be praised, for you’ve kept me from shedding blood and you’ve saved me from myself.  
  
 34‘As Jehovah the God of IsraEl lives; you’ve kept me from doing something bad to you.  
  
 ‘For if you hadn’t hurried and come to meet me here, none in the house of NaBal who can urinate against a wall would have lived to see the light of dawn.’  
  
35Then David accepted all the things that she brought, and he said her:  
  
 ‘Now, return to your home in peace, for I’ve listened to what you’ve said and I have deep respect for the person whom you’ve shown yourself to be.’  
  
36Well, when AbiGail got back home to NaBal, she found him holding a banquet in his house that was fit for a king. He was also quite happy, because he’d had too much to drink. So AbiGail didn’t tell him what she’d done until the next morning.  
  
37Then in the morning (after NaBal had sobered up from the wine), she told him everything that had happened. And at that, his heart just died inside him… It became [as heavy as] a rock!  
  
38And after 10 days, Jehovah struck NaBal and he died.  
  
  
39Well when David heard that NaBal had died, he said:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah be praised, for He judged the case of my being scorned by NaBal, and He brought NaBal’s evil down upon his own head, keeping me from doing anything bad to him.’  
  
Then David sent for AbiGail, because he was talking about taking her as his own. 40So his servants went to AbiGail at CarMel and spoke to her, saying:  
  
 ‘David sent us, because he would like to take you to be his woman.’  
  
41And at that, she bowed with her face to the ground and said:  
  
 ‘Look, your female servant…  
  
 ‘A girl to wash the feet of my master’s servants.’  
  
42Thereafter, AbiGail quickly mounted her burro (bringing along 5 of her young women who followed behind), and she went with David’s servants and became his woman.  
  
43Now, David was also married to AhiNoam of JezreEl, 44as well as to Michal (Saul’s daughter), whom Saul had given to Phalti (son of LaIsh) from GalLim.