

ABIGAIL: NO VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES



Characters in this story



DAVID

- He was chosen by God as the next king of Israel. He was a fugitive from Saul then.



NABAL

- He was a rich landowner with a rough personality



SLAVES

- They were shepherds who served Nabal.



ABIGAIL

- Nabal's wife; she was intelligent and humble.



GOD

- He is there anywhere anytime, acting in the right moment.

THE STORY

First part



David was escaping from Saul, so he took refuge near Carmel and protected the Israelites who lived there from the Philistines' raids. Nabal's shepherds were among those Israelites.

He sent 10 men to ask for a gratuity from Nabal in the shearing time. David hoped that Nabal would be grateful for all the protection he had offered him ("Ask your own servants and they will tell you" 1 Samuel, 25: 8)

Nabal didn't talk with his servants and rejected the young men; he despised David

(1 Samuel, 25: 10-11)

David lost his composure when he felt insulted. He decided to take revenge in a bloody way. As Esau did (Genesis, 32:6), he took 400 armed men to kill every man in Nabal's house.

One of the servants explained the circumstance to Nabal's wife, as he understood the necessity of his master and the possible reaction of David (1 Samuel, 25: 14-17)

THE STORY

Second part



Abigail realized the danger they were in, she hurried to prepare a gift for David (1 Samuel, 25: 18)

She went to personally meet David with her servants and appeased him, interceding on her husband's behalf and solving the conflict (1 Samuel, 25: 19-34)

David took the present from Abigail and returned to his place deeply touched by her words (1 Samuel, 25: 35).

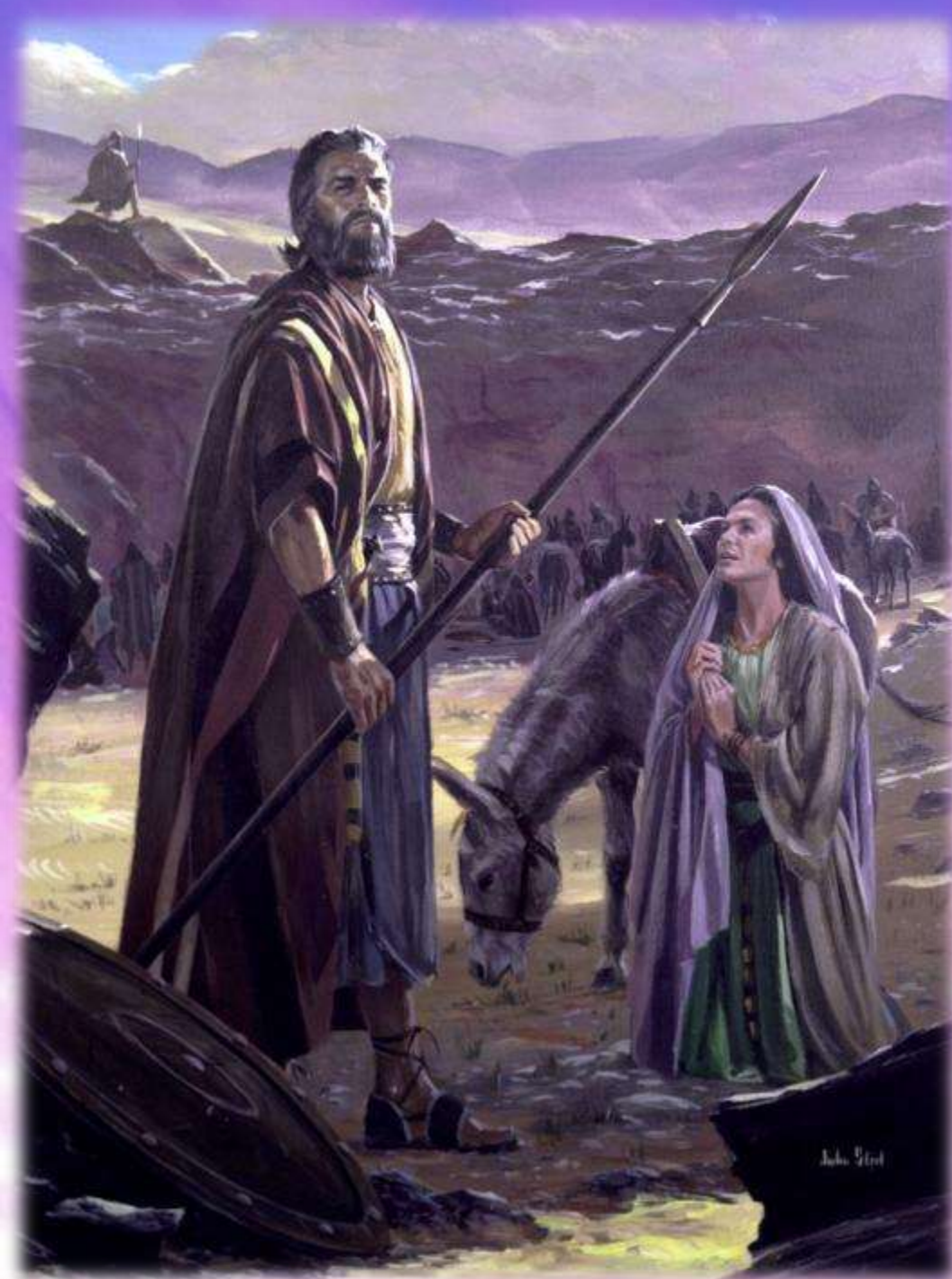
Abigail went back home and didn't tell anything to his drunk husband until the next morning, when she told him everything. When Nabal realized the danger he had been in, he suffered a heart attack and died after 10 days (1 Samuel, 25: 36-39)

After a while, David called Abigail to make her his wife (1 Samuel, 25: 39-42)

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Abigail showed her skills to be a good peacemaker:

- A. Knowing how to listen.**
- B. Acting consequently.**
- C. Using the right words.**



A) KNOWING HOW TO LISTEN

Contrary to Nabal ("that one cannot speak to him" ^{1 Samuel, 25: 17}), Abigail had his ears opened. She listened every detail to be sure that she understood the circumstance correctly.



"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James, 1: 19)

B) ACTING CONSEQUENTLY

Two steps were needed to solve the conflict:

- 1) Compensating for the offence.
- 2) Interceding on Nabal's behalf
(begging for undeserved forgiveness)

David asked for a present as gratitude for his care ("in vain I have protected all that this fellow has" 1 Samuel, 25: 21)

Abigail prepared a present that amply surpassed David's expectations, and she gave it personally to him.

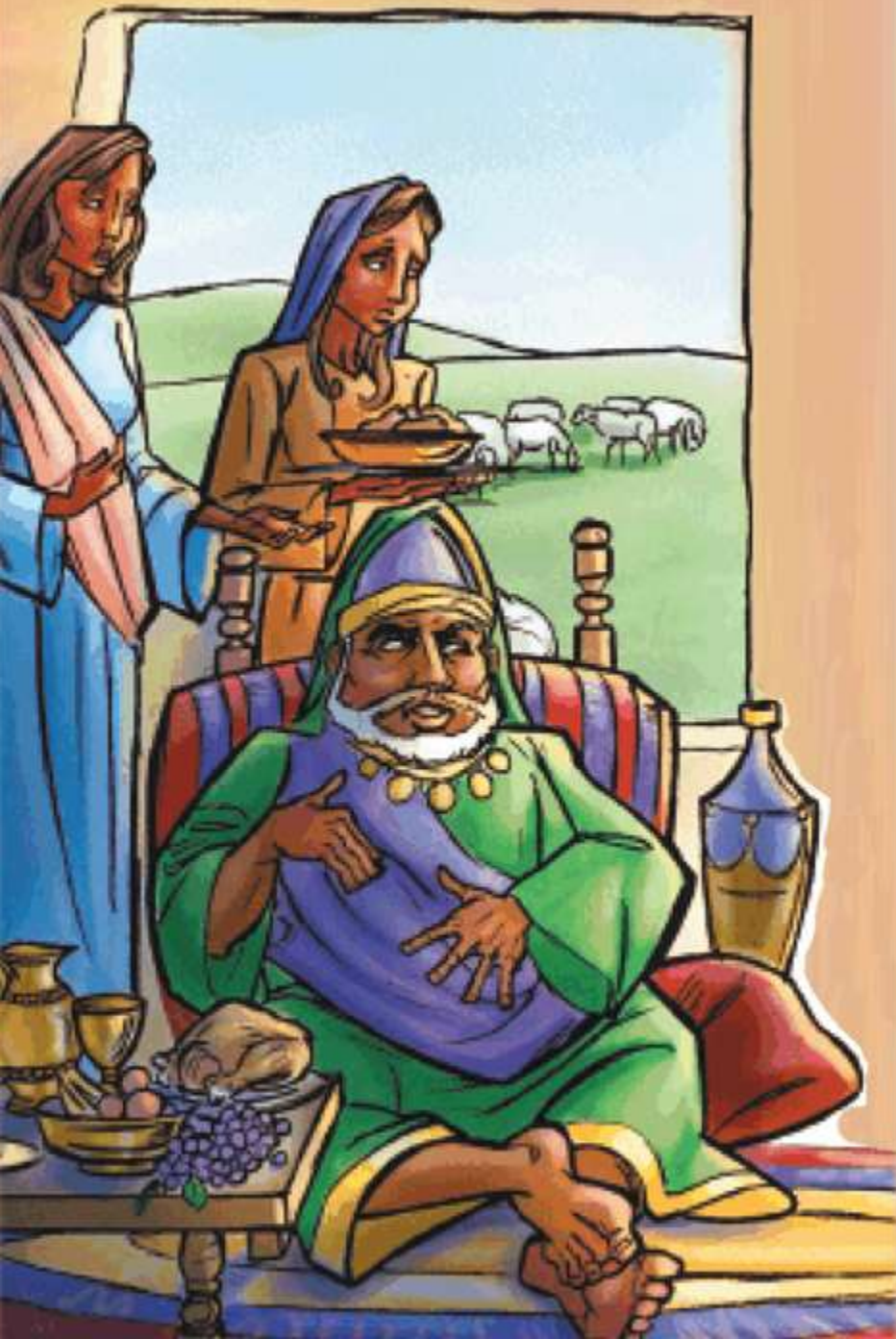


“It is faith and trust and confidence in God that we need. Inward grace will be revealed in the outward actions. We need that spirit which will show to others that we have been learning in the school of Christ and that we copy the pattern given us. We want a heart that is not lifted up unto vanity, a mind not settled on self. Each should have a constant desire to bless others. God notices our humble efforts, and they are precious in His sight”

- She went to David with a humble attitude.
- He admitted Nabal's faults and admitted that he had offended David.
- He invoked divine mediation, asking David to leave revenge in God's hands.
- She begged David tactfully not to do anything that he could repent of later.
- She guaranteed him that God would undoubtedly act in his favour, and asked him to behave kindly to her ("remember your maidservant" 1 Samuel, 25: 31)



"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Proverbs, 25: 11)



David followed Abigail's advice and returned without harming Nabal.

God acted when the right moment came.

"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Romans, 12: 19)

"When David heard the tidings of the death of Nabal, he gave thanks that God had taken vengeance into His own hands. He had been restrained from evil, and the Lord had returned the wickedness of the wicked upon his own head. In this dealing of God with Nabal and David, men may be encouraged to put their cases into the hands of God; for in His own good time He will set matters right"

After Nabal's sudden death, David sent a marriage proposal to Abigail.

In addition to her pacifying aptitudes, she showed she was a really humble person.

She answered with the same humbleness she had shown some days before: "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord" (1 Samuel, 25: 41)



**“Not lip service, not profession,
but humble, devoted lives, is
that for which God is seeking”**

ADAPT *it!*

Teaching Approach

Effective for
SMALL GROUPS

ASSOCIATE truth – Why should I study this lesson?

DISCOVER truth – What does the Bible say about this truth?

APPLY truth – How can this truth affect my life today?

PLAN using the truth – How can I use this truth today?

TRANSFER truth to life – What changes do I need in my life?



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