



## Part 9: Beauty and the Beast

### INTRODUCTION — Control Freaks and Strong Women

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK – Abigail to the Rescue

1 Samuel 25

#### TAKE OUTS – I'll Have That to Go Please

##### TAKE OUT #1 – David's Sin, Fuelled by Religious Zeal

All too often, religion can provide people a hiding place for their arrogance, anger, and immaturity. Without the corrective of a firm commitment to Christ's teaching and example (e.g., peace, plank-eye, forgiveness), religion fans the flame of retributive violence by allowing personal offense to masquerade as righteous indignation. Anger is not a fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

**Leviticus 19:18; Proverbs 20:22; Romans 12:14-21; James 1:19-21**

##### TAKE OUT #2 – Abigail's Rebuke, A Model of Loving Communication

Apology is always the best way to initiate rebuke. Before you try to correct anyone, do a thorough self-assessment. Look for the plank in your own eye before helping someone with the sliver in theirs. Then, speak gently.

**Proverbs 15:1; 25:15; Matthew 7:1-5**

##### TAKE OUT #3 – We're All Capable of Anything, Given the Perfect Storm

Even someone who is passionate about following the heart of God like David (**1 Samuel 13:14**), can sin in massively destructive ways when the perfect storm of circumstance blows through. If that has been you, know that you are not a write-off to God. He is ready to renew and restore you. If that could become you, listen to God's voice of warning through the Abigails in your life.

##### TAKE OUT #4 – The WHIVSIV Effect

Abigail helps prevent David from acting in the moment without considering future implications. Never make a significant decision in a relational or temporal or mental bubble, cut off from thoughtful consideration of the decision's effects on your future and your relationships. Make wise decisions in any one moment by refusing to keep that moment segregated from the rest of your life. Connect every present moment with future implications. Connect every decision with relational ramifications. "What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas" is an awesome marketing slogan, but a lousy mentality for wise choices. Either it won't be true, and you could negatively impact the rest of your life, or worse, you will make it true to an extent and will begin to divide and disintegrate your psyche, your soul.

#### TAKE OUT #5 – Love Over Law

Abigail helps David break his own religious oath (25:22) in order to preserve life. Law must always submit to love.

#### CONCLUSION – The Gospel on Every Page

Abigail lays down her rights, absorbs the guilt of another, and seeks to reconcile warring enemies. What Abigail offered Nabal and David, Jesus offers each one of us.

**Luke 24:27; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:4-6; 1 John 4:11**

#### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

##### Warming Up...

1. Review this week's message and talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

##### Look to the Book...

2. Re-read **1 Samuel 25**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) How does David display modesty in his claims in **verses 7-9** (when compared to **verses 14-16**)? C) How does Abigail display wisdom in **verses 36-37**. What transferable principles could we apply to situations in our lives today? C) If you have time, talk about ways that Abigail exemplifies the qualities of the noble woman in **Proverbs 31**.
3. Abigail's petition to David is a model for all conflict management (and that's an understatement of significant proportions). Let's focus on **verses 23-31**. A) First, see if you can identify all the times Abigail refers to David as "my lord" or to herself as "your servant"? What other things does she say or do to humble herself in the process of delivering her correction? Talk about practical examples today of how you might apply this lesson in your interactions. B) Discuss the implications and applications for today about these aspects of Abigail's correction to David. I. INDEPENDENT – She does not wait for her husband's approval or cooperation. II. GENEROUS – Abigail brings a lavish and practical gift. III. INITIATIVE – Abigail acts quickly and decisively and creatively. IV. THEOLOGICAL – Abigail's entire approach to David is based on a firm belief in the sovereignty of God, the promises of God, and God's unique position as judge of others. V. PRACTICAL – Abigail comes, not just with rebuke, but with an alternative plan. VI. ATONING – Abigail absorbs to herself whatever guilt she can, making it easier for David to do the same. VII. SELF-SACRIFICING – Abigail gives up what would be a natural desire to be released from her hard marriage in order to preserve life and promote God's plan.

##### So What?...

4. What TAKE OUT applies to your life the most? What lesson do you most need to learn? How do you intend to apply this lesson to your life this week? Talk about some practical, measurable, realistic next steps. Pray for each other regarding this.