



"Don't Do It"

1 Samuel 25

August 23, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 25

¹Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah.

David and Abigail

Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. ²And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. ³Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. ⁴David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. ⁵So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name. ⁶And thus you shall greet him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. ⁷I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel. ⁸Ask 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 you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.' "

⁹When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited. ¹⁰And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. ¹¹Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" ¹²So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. ¹³And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

¹⁴But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. ¹⁵Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. ¹⁶They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. ¹⁷Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him."

¹⁸Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. ¹⁹And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. ²¹Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. ²²God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

²³When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. ²⁴She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. ²⁵Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal,

for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. ²⁶ Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. ²⁷ And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. ²⁸ Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. ²⁹ If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. ³⁰ And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, ³¹ my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

³² And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! ³³ Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! ³⁴ For as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male." ³⁵ Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition."

³⁶ And Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until the morning light. ³⁷ In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. ³⁸ And about ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

³⁹ When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD who has avenged the insult I received at the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing. The LORD has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife. ⁴⁰ When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, "David has sent us to you to take you to him as his wife." ⁴¹ And she rose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your handmaid is a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord." ⁴² And Abigail hurried and rose and mounted a donkey, and her five young women attended her. She followed the messengers of David and became his wife.

⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and both of them became his wives. ⁴⁴ Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was of Gallim.

MAIN THEME

Have you ever been so hurt that you wanted to make someone pay? Someone lied about you, mistreated you, or took advantage of you, and everything inside you wanted justice immediately.

That is exactly where David finds himself in 1 Samuel 25. After being insulted by a wealthy but foolish man named Nabal, David prepares to lead four hundred armed men to wipe out Nabal's entire household. The future king, who had just spared Saul's life in the previous chapter, is now dangerously close to destroying his own legacy because of uncontrolled anger.

But God graciously intervenes. He sends Abigail, a wise and discerning woman, to stop David from crossing a line he would later regret. Through her wisdom, David is reminded that vengeance belongs to God, not to him. God wasn't simply protecting David from an enemy—he was protecting David from himself.

We face the same temptation. When we have been wronged, we naturally want to take matters into our own hands. Yet God calls us to trust his justice, obey his Word, and allow him to accomplish His purposes in his time.

Followers of Christ can rest in the confidence that God always provides a way of obedience. When we trust him instead of our anger, we protect both our testimony and our conscience.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Don't Sacrifice Your Character to Achieve a Goal

1 Samuel 25:4–13; Proverbs 4:23; Philippians 2:3–5

- David wanted to provide for his men. Why did his response to Nabal become sinful?
- Why is it easy to convince ourselves that the ends justify the means?
- What goals or desires are most likely to tempt you to compromise your character?
- How can we pursue God's purposes without abandoning God's methods?

2. God Always Provides a Way Out

1 Samuel 25:14–31; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 32:8

- How did God use Abigail to rescue David from making a terrible mistake?
- Why do you think God often uses other people to redirect us?
- Can you think of a time when God protected you from making a decision you later would have regretted?
- How can you become more sensitive to God's warnings and guidance?

3. Don't Let Today's Anger Become Tomorrow's Regret

1 Samuel 25:32–35; Ephesians 4:26–27, 31–32; James 1:19–20

- What changed David's heart after hearing Abigail speak?
- Why does anger often lead us toward decisions we later regret?
- Is there an area where your emotions are making it difficult to think biblically?
- What practical steps can you take this week to respond with wisdom instead of anger?

4. Leave Justice in God's Hands

1 Samuel 25:36–39; Romans 12:17–21; Deuteronomy 32:35

- What does Nabal's death teach us about God's justice?
- Why is waiting for God often harder than taking matters into our own hands?
- What is the difference between forgiveness and pretending evil never happened?

- Is there someone you need to forgive or release into God's hands this week?

PRAY

Dear Father, thank you for loving us enough to protect us, even from ourselves. Forgive us for the times we allow anger, pride, or hurt to control our actions. Help us resist the temptation to take revenge or force outcomes that belong in your hands.

Give us hearts like David after he listened to Abigail—humble enough to receive correction and willing to change direction. Help us trust that Your justice is perfect, your timing is always right, and your plans are never threatened by the actions of others.

Thank you for Jesus, who entrusted himself to the Father even when he was falsely accused and unjustly condemned. By the power of your Spirit, help us respond to those who hurt us with faith, wisdom, and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:

- Proverbs 4:23
- Psalm 37:1–11
- Romans 12:17–21
- Ephesians 4:26–32
- James 1:19–20
- 1 Peter 2:21–23

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

1 Samuel 26

David receives a second opportunity to kill Saul, yet once again refuses to seize God's promises through sinful means. True faith waits for God's timing, trusts God's justice, and refuses to accomplish God's work in the world's way.