

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT ABIGAIL? By, Roger D. Campbell

Does the Bible character Abigail sound familiar to you? She is mentioned for the first time in the Bible in the book of First Samuel. One of the things about Abigail's life which many Bible students recall is that she had "a loser" for a husband, an Israelite by the name of Nabal. Following his death, "Abigail the Carmelitess" married David and later gave birth to David's second son, Daniel (1 Chron. 3:1).

But what about Abigail's character traits? We learn a number of things about her from the divine record found in 1 Samuel 25. Let's consider some different aspects of her mentality, speech, and conduct.

Abigail was humble when she encountered David for the first time. What did she do in that instance? "Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground" (1 Sam. 25:23). Is humility a lost trait in our time? The following two truths are relevant in every period of history: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

Abigail was honest in her evaluation of her husband when she saw that he treated David rudely. She referred to him as "this scoundrel Nabal," saying, "For as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him!" (1 Sam. 25:25). Nabal conducted himself foolishly. Abigail refused to support such behavior.

She was generous, as she brought a considerable amount of provisions to feed David and those men who accompanied him (1 Sam. 25:18,27). Would it not be wonderful if all of God's people graciously shared their substance without expecting any type of payback? Having a spirit of hospitality is a quality that should characterize each Christian (Rom. 12:13).

Abigail was God-revering, using her tongue to speak with respect and honor about Jehovah (1 Sam. 25:28-31). Would it not be wonderful if all modern-day men and women alike would do the same?! So many people of our day flippantly and disrespectfully refer to the Creator. Among God's children, this should never happen. Instead, we ought to speak and "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:28).

The woman Abigail was perceptive, understanding that it was God's will for David to reign over Israel. She knew that God had spoken something concerning David's future on the throne, telling David, "...when the LORD...has appointed you ruler over Israel" (1 Sam. 25:30).

For me personally, the one aspect of Abigail's character which stands out more than anything else is this: this wise woman had the heart of a servant. In most cases in ancient times, who was it that had the responsibility of washing the feet of guests and dignitaries? It was the lowest of the servants, right? Listen to what the Bible tells us what Abigail did and said when she came before David: "Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord" (1 Sam. 25:41). Abigail basically said, "I will wash the feet of the foot-washers. Count me as the lowest servant." In an age when people have "gone nuts," so to speak, spreading selfies (a photo one takes of him/herself) and self-exalting statements on social media or in any forum where they can get some "Likes" to stroke their egos, it seems to me that we could use a whole lot more hearts like Abigail's — the heart of a humble servant. Jesus, the Master, came to serve others (Mark 10:45), and He plainly proclaimed, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

What we read in the Bible about Abigail reminds us that one does not have to be well-known in order to make an impression on and influence others. Though she would not be categorized as a "major" character in Bible history, and although she lived about three thousand years ago, she continues to send a message to you and me by her attitude, words, and behavior, much like Abel by his faith, speaks to us (Heb. 11:4).

Abigail was not a perfect person. She did, however, manifest some admirable qualities: she was humble, honest, generous, God-revering, perceptive, and possessed a servant's heart. In every generation, people of both genders, young ones and older ones, too, can learn from her. The Old Testament was recorded and preserved for our learning (Rom. 15:4). We are blessed to have its record about Abigail. Let us be thankful for it.

(seektholdpaths.com)

On Instrumental music:

QUESTION: What is the difference between instruments and human beings? Both are His creation.

ANSWER: The difference is that human beings can worship! Instruments cannot! Neither can they satisfy the purpose of God in the music that He has authorized. In Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16, we learn that God-approved music in worship demands "singing," "making melody in our hearts," "speaking," teaching one another," and "admonishing one another." The instrument does not and cannot answer to, or fulfill, the demands of music in Christian worship! Only human beings in compliance with His will can satisfy these scriptural requirements.

(David Amos for Truth for the World)

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin
January 24, 2021

Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cash, Joe
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Isbell, Thomas
Moore, Jean
Moore, Roger
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray

**The following are suffering
from Covid:**

Dawn West
Sandra Gilliam
Kelly Gilliam
Bob Nunez
Colton Hardesty
Logan Brashear

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com
Facebook.com@braggsec
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

December Average - 32
Attendance last Sunday - 32

Scripture Reading – Prov. 1:22-24

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021

February calendars are on the table in the back of the building.

Lana will be having a cardiac conversion (shocking her heart into normal rhythm) sometime soon.