

"A Time for Wisdom and Self Control"  
I Samuel 25  
Oct. 14, 2012

**Scripture Reading-** I Sam. 25:28-35

1. David resisted meeting his needs by force.

*"Your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm..." (25:7)*

2. David requested food for his men.

*"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." (25:8)*

3. David learns restraint from the Lord.

- Slow down and listen.

*"Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant." (24b)*

- Be sure to fight the battles that the Lord wants you to fight.

*"For the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD." (25:28)*

- See the value of being a "peacemaker."

*"And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from avenging myself with my own hand... unless you had hurried and come to meet me..." (25:32,33,34b)*

**Application:**

1. Ask the Lord to help you to be slower in your response and grow as a listener before you respond in situations.
2. Evaluate your identity as a "peacemaker." How can you improve? What battles are you fighting that are pleasing to the Lord? Seek His guidance in all of your relationships.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
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1. David had shown such self-control and wisdom in resisting revenge with Saul in the cave in chapter 24. But now, in the face of mistreatment of his men he is ready to get revenge. What has changed? Why is there a different response? Read I Cor. 10:12 and share what we need to remember even after spiritual victories.
2. Discuss the culture of the day and what David's men had accomplished for Nabal and why they were deserving of some consideration. (I Sam. 25:6) (Also 25:15-16) Is it easy or difficult for you to be generous when it is a thank you for service? (waiter/waitress) Discuss the ability of David's men to resist temptation in taking Nabal's animals/ food whenever they wanted. How is their request different than organized crime that gets paid for "protection?"
3. How does a "fool" respond to the needs of others? (Isa. 32:6) What does Nabal say to David's men? (25:10-11) How do you think they felt, especially knowing their background? (22:2) What is David's initial response? (v. 13) Discuss the emotion of anger and when it becomes "sin." (Eph. 4:26-27,30)
4. What does Abigail ask of David? (24) How is this different than the character of Nabal? (v. 17) What do you think of what Abigail says about her husband? (v. 24-25) Is it ever acceptable to speak truth about your spouse?
5. What truth does Abigail say about David? (28) What does it mean to fight the Lord's battles? Discuss how you might know if you are fighting the Lord's battles.
6. How does David respond to Abigail's intervention? (32) Who does David say was really behind her effort? How do we detect the prompting of the Holy Spirit today? Abigail was successful because she hurried. (34) How can we know when it is time to speak up or go and talk to someone? When is it time to be quiet?
7. Pray for one another and take time to verbalize your thoughts about the role of being a peacemaker in our relationships and in our church. (Matt. 5:9)