



Abigail



Details of Artwork:

Dated: October 2020

Author: Yobeth Puckett, Artist

Media: Mixed Media Acrylic

Based on 1 Samuel 25:3-42

Characteristics: Strength, wise, decisive, sensitive, courageous

Synopsis: Blue sky, soft green grass, and stony areas in the background of this mixed media painting represent the fields where Abigail intercepted David and his men after her husband had dealt with them foolishly. She is a good wife, despite having an uncivilized, evil husband. Her courage, strength, wisdom and quick actions were in direct contrast to her husband's crude behavior and saved her household from complete and utter destruction.

Story: 1 Samuel 25:3 describes Abigail as the wife of Nabal (fool), of good understanding, beautiful but her husband was churlish and evil in all his doings. He's later described as a man of Belial!

Nabal was a wealthy rancher. During the years when David was running from Saul, he and his followers camped near Nabal's lands. David and his men treated Nabal's shepherds good and helped them protect their flocks.

When sheepshearing time came David sent ten young men to Nabal in David's name to request appropriate remuneration. They were to extend him peace and remind him how well David had treated his shepherds before asking for "whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David". Although Nabal was very wealthy he refused their request for provisions and even insulted David despite the testimony of his own herdsmen.

David was furious and immediately set out with four hundred of his men to obliterate Nabal and his entire household.

But one of Nabal's young men reported to Abigail all that had happened because he was confident that she'd know what to do. When Abigail heard about the evil way Nabal treated David's men, she made haste to gather all manner of food and wine and laid them on asses. She had her servants go before her with her offering. She said nothing of her plan to Nabal but followed her servants as she set about to intercept David.

We pick up the story in verse 20, "And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them".

Abigail used great interpersonal skills dealing with David. First, she agreed that her husband was wicked and had treated him horribly. She said she hadn't seen the young men David had sent. She was humble and asked forgiveness for her trespass thus dealing with the personal provocation that had so angered David.

Secondly, the food and wine she brought showed that she agreed David's original request was justified.

Next, she appealed to his own character and values to remind him that he was the kind of person who "fighteth the battles of the Lord, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days". He was not like Saul or Nabal and even though Nabal might deserve death, to kill all the males in Nabal's household, as David had vowed, would be to treat them as Saul had treated him. In verse 26 she reminded him that "the Lord had withholden thee from coming to shed blood,"

Finally, she reminded him of the effect his actions today might have on him in the future when he is ruler over Israel.

David believed God had sent Abigail to meet him and keep him from avenging himself with his own hand. He accepted "that which she had brought him and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person".

Abigail came home to find Nabal partying and drunk. She waited until the next morning to tell him all that had happened. When he heard it "his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord smote Nabal, that he died".

David was so impressed with his brief encounter with Abigail that he took her as his wife when Nabal died a few days after learning what all had transpired.

History: Churlish is defined as selfish, rude, uncivil, obstinate, and difficult to work with. Belial means wicked.

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Another Story: Abigail is an example to today in many ways.

- She is an example of successful confrontation
- She shows us how to offer advice in a wise and gracious way
- She reminds women today not to hide their strengths to be acceptable to men
- Strong, confident men want women with qualities like hers