

# **Ridin' High Cowboy Church**

**8771 FM 35**

**Union Valley/Royse City, TX**

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.**

**Psalm 143:8**

**Sunday, April 2, 2017**

**What Story Do You Want to Tell – When It's Just a Story**

**1 Samuel 25**

**2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he as shearing in Carmel. 3 His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings – he was a Calebite.**

**4 While David was in the wilderness, (Saul was trying to kill him) *he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.* (This was the time of year when people in the sheep business got paid)**

**5 So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. 6 Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'"**

**7 "Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. 8 Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them."**

**9 When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited.**

**10 Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. 11 Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"**

***12 David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. 13 David said to his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" So they did, and David strapped his on as well. (Self-control and patience is like a muscle and you can wear it out.) David had reached the end of his rope on patience. His frustration was about to be unleashed on someone who was not the reason David was living in the wilderness.***

***About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies***

***14 One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. 15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. 16 Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. 17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."***

The women were cooking big meals for all the sheep shearers, it's like spring round up time, she takes that food.

***18 Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 19 Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband, Nabal.***

***20 As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them.***

David is talking himself into and justifying what he is about to do.

***21 David had just said, "It's been useless – all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. 22 May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"***

***23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. (this is strange, she is a wealthy woman, David is an outlaw, and enemy of the King, and she is very smart, very beautiful)***

Abigail treats David as if he is the man she hopes he will be.

Ladies, take note of this, it works every time. Even if we know that's what your dong (I bet you could take that trash to the curb with one hand arm).

***24 She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. 25 Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name – his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. 26 And now my lord, as surely as the LORD your God lives and as you live,***

She tells David God has already kept you from killing innocent people and David had not decided that yet.

***Since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. 27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you.***

***28 “Please forgive your servant’s presumption. The LORD your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the LORD’s battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live.***

***29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living (bundle of the living, was a wallet or purse that money was tied up in) by the LORD your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. (like when David killed Goliath, trusting in God).***

Main Point

What Story do you want to tell when this is nothing but a story you tell, down the road this is just a story, you don't want this.

***30 When the LORD has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, 31 my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD your God has brought my lord success, remember you servant.”***

***33 David said to Abigail, “Praise be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. 33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 34 Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you***

***had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”***

***35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.”***

***36 When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until daybreak.***

***37 Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. 38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.***

***39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal’s wrongdoing down on his own head.”***

***Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife. 40 His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, “David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife.”*** (and they lived happily ever after) not really

3 Characters, 1 Hero

Nabal          return evil for good

David          return evil for evil

Abigail        return good for evil

In the New Testament, Peter got this from watching Jesus

***1 Peter 3:9-11 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For*** (he quotes King David here) ***“Whatever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.”***

What story do you want to tell?

What would it look like in your situation for you to return good for evil?

Why should we do this?

Repaying evil for good might be the most Christ like thing you ever do on this earth.

As a Christian, this is not optional for us...

Easter is coming up, this is exactly what God did for us, he repaid our evil with good by dying on a cross for our sin.

Repaying evil with good will set you apart and SET YOU FREE!