

Living in Light of God's Truth
"Bridge Out Ahead"

1 Samuel 25:23-35

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1 Samuel 25:23-35 "When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. ²⁴ She 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. ²⁵ Let 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.'"

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. You need to recognize the many forms of God's grace!

- A. Saving grace** brings sinners salvation in Christ. (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11)
- B. Sustaining grace** carries us through suffering & weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)
- C. Preserving grace** keeps us to the end. (Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5; Jude 24)
- D. Restoring grace** picks us up when we've fallen. (Luke 22:31-32; John 21:15-19)
- E. Preventing grace** keeps us from sins we'd otherwise commit. (Gen. 20:6; 1 Sam. 25:26, 32-34)

Abigail became God's "Bridge Out Ahead" sign in David's life.

II. You need to learn to recognize the "Abigails" God sends your way.

5 "Abigails" God Sends Into Our Lives

- 1. PEOPLE** - God sends someone who tells you what you don't want to hear.

1 Samuel 25:32-33 “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!’”

Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.”

2. BIBLE - God’s truth confronts or redirects you.

Psalms 119:9, 11 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your word...¹¹ I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

3. PRAYER - As we seek God, He gives wisdom and discernment concerning how we should walk.

Colossians 1:9-10 “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

4. CONSCIENCE - Don’t bulldoze a Scripture-trained conscience when it’s telling you to stop.

Romans 14:22-23 “The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”

5. PROVIDENCE - Sometimes God simply closes the road.

Acts 16:6-7 “And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.”

Sometimes: **“Bridge Out Ahead” = Don’t sin.**

Other times: **“Bridge Out Ahead” = Not this. Not now. Not here.**

*God’s preventing/restraining grace isn’t exclusively about preventing moral evil.
Sometimes God graciously redirects our lives.*

III. You need to heed God’s warnings and change course!

1 Samuel 25:35 “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.’”

A. Christian: Where is God warning you to stop or change course?

B. Unbeliever: Jesus is warning you “Bridge Out Ahead.” Turn to Christ!

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Which expression of God’s grace – saving, sustaining, preserving, restoring, or preventing – are you most aware of in your life right now?

2. Can you identify a time when God's preventing grace kept you from a decision or action you might have regretted?
3. Look back on the 5 "Abigails" listed above. Which ones has God placed in your life? Which are missing? What others would you add to that list?
4. Nabal was described as someone "one cannot speak to" (1 Sam. 25:17), while David listened when Abigail confronted him. Which description more closely resembles you when you are challenged or corrected?
5. Abigail was willing to risk an uncomfortable conversation to keep David from doing something he would regret. Who might need you to be an "Abigail" in their life? How can you speak the truth with both courage and wisdom?