

Opportunity for Voluntary Redirection *in Waiting for God* *The King and the People Series*

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu
Prof. Oby Ofoegbu
Banking Blessings Ministry
San Antonio, Texas
USA

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What We Will Learn

- Driven by anger and motivated by selfishness
- David intended an action
- That was “wrong and unjust”
- Encounter with Abigail helped David recognize and repent from his plan
- Accepted redirection from action potentially of great negative consequence
- 1 Samuel 25

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2

David Set to Attack Nabal

- David requested food
- From Nabal during sheep shearing festival
- Had cared for Nabal’s shepherds
- Protected them in the field
- Nabal refused request with ignominy
- Enraged David set out to “punish” Nabal
- Intended to destroy everything he owned
- 1 Samuel 25:4–8, 10–11, 12–13, and 21–22

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3

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

4 While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.

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!’

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4

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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.”

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5

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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?”

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6

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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

- Driven by anger and motivated by selfishness
- David intended to attack Nabal

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7

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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!"

- Self-justified and taking leave of God
- Determined for action "wrong and unjust"

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Abigail Appeals to David

- Servant alerts Abigail that David could be on his way to attack their household
- Abigail gathered supplies, intercepted David
- Avoid self vengeance
- Needless bloodshed
- Remain free from wrongdoing
- Remember your mission as future king
- 1 Samuel 25:14–17, and 23–31

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9

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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.

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10

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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."

- Servant explained the emergency
- And why he could not take the info to Nabal

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11

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

- Abigail responded to the servant's information
- Gathered supplies to intercept David

23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground.

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.

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12

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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.

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13

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

26 And now, my lord, as surely as the Lord your God lives and as you live, 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.

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14

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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.

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15

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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 by the Lord your God, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling.

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16

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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 your servant."

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Recognizing Godly Redirection

- Based on understanding of right from wrong
- Seeks to persuade
 - Against "wrong and unjust"
 - In favor of "right and just"
- Respectful
- Attempts to persuade based on Godliness
- Abigail was respectful of David
- His person, mission, and Godliness

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Accepting Redirection

- Recognized Godly redirection from Abigail
- Confessed to his prior intention and repented
- Appreciated God for sending Abigail
- Appreciated Abigail for intercepting him
- Accepted voluntary redirection
- From Abigail
- 1 Samuel 25:32–35

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19

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

32 David said to Abigail, “Praise be to 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.

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20

1 Samuel 25 (NIV)

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.”

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What We Learned

- God will provide opportunities for redirection
- When we stray from his path
- Intending to do something not “right and just”
- Redirection could be voluntary or coercive
- Abigail-David interactions
- Highlight voluntary redirection
 - Recognition
 - Acceptance

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