



Life of

DAVID

The Making of a King

Overcoming Evil with Good

1 Samuel 25

Lesson 8

Background Information

After the death of Samuel, David journeyed to the Wilderness of Paran. Moan was located in the Judean hill country, about eight miles south of Hebron. Carmel was located about a mile north of Moan. Shearing-time was a festive occasion. It was customary for the sheep-master to reward those who helped to make his business profitable. David's request to Nabal, was a customary tradition. Nabal owned thousands of sheep and goats, so it was a prime target for thieves. Nabal's own men testified that David and his men had *been a wall* of protection to them.

David allowed his anger to get the best of him. Help came to him in the face of a noble woman whose wisdom and humility stopped him in his tracks. She wisely sent provisions and humbly took responsibility for her *worthless* husband's actions. Embracing her wisdom, David learned a valuable lesson, it is real wisdom that learns to, *overcomes evil with good* and leave the results in God's hands.

Treasures of the Heart

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Samuel 25:1-13

1 Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

2 Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. **3** The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb.

4 When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep, **5** David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name.

6 And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have! **7** Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel. **8** Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

9 So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited.

10 Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master. **11** Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

12 So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words. **13** Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded

1 Samuel 25:14-31

14 Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them. **15** But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields. **16** They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep. **17** Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him."

18 Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys. **19** And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

20 So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them. **21** Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good. **22** May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

23 Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. **24** So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant. **25** Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. **26** Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, since the Lord has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. **27** And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord. **28** Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the Lord will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the Lord, and evil is



What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Samuel 25:1-13 _____

1 Samuel 25:14-31 _____

1 Samuel 25:32-38 _____

1 Samuel 25:39-44 _____



How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, **“What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?”** How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Samuel 25:1-13 _____

1 Samuel 25:14-31 _____

1 Samuel 25:32-38 _____

1 Samuel 25:39-44 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Understanding the Heart . . .

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

The Heart of David:

The Heart of the people:

The Heart of God:

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Samuel 25:1-13 _____

1 Samuel 25:14-31 _____

1 Samuel 25:32-38 _____

1 Samuel 25:39-44 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

How we confront evil exposes what is in our hearts. We can respond by, *returning evil for good, we can return evil for evil, or we can overcome evil with good.*

