



1
2 *The caves at En Gedi, west side of the Dead Sea in Israel, where David and Saul met in our study tonight.*

3
4 Now the confrontation was unexpected, to be sure: 1 Samuel 24:3
5 ***And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul***
6 ***went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides***
7 ***of the cave.***

8
9 The phrase in that verse, “to cover his feet,” is simply the Bible’s way of
10 saying Saul had to go to the bathroom. He could not have been in a more
11 vulnerable position, especially since David and many of his men
12 happened to be in the same cave.

13
14 1 Samuel 24:4
15 ***And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the Lord***
16 ***said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that***
17 ***thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose,***
18 ***and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.***

1 This was David's golden opportunity to end his enemy's life. But he
2 didn't do it. He simply cut off part of Saul's clothes.

3
4 The king apparently fell asleep and David slipped up to where was lying,
5 took his sword, and cut off that piece royal garment. Now... did David feel
6 good about himself for sparing the king's life? No.

7
8 1 Samuel 24:5-6

9 *And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he*
10 *had cut off Saul's skirt. [6] And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid*
11 *that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to*
12 *stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of*
13 *the Lord.*

14
15 David might not have respected King Saul, but he certainly respected the
16 position or OFFICE Saul held. That is something quickly disappearing in
17 the United States. Our national office holders are made the butt of jokes
18 and disrespect. It matters not what political party he may come from, he
19 is still the president of the United States. In our world, both political
20 parties are to blame as well as the media. Many college students (and high
21 school) believe it is all right to badmouth our elected officer. This is not
22 right and it breeds contempt for authority.

23
24 Why didn't David take advantage of this opportunity in En Gedi? Because
25 Saul is God's anointed and David knows this whole issue will be settled
26 by God, not him.

27
28 Romans 12:19

29 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath:*
30 *for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

31
32 David regretted he cut Saul's clothes. He feels guilty that he made the
33 king an object of ridicule. Now what did he do? He got his men out
34 of there.

35
36

1 1 Samuel 24:7

2 *So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to*
3 *rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.*

4

5 But David called out to him: 1 Samuel 24:8-10

6 *David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after*
7 *Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him,*
8 *David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.*

9 *[9] And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words,*
10 *saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? [10] Behold, this day thine eyes*
11 *have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand*
12 *in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and*
13 *I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the*
14 *Lord's anointed.*

15

16 This act deeply affected Saul - at least for the moment:

17

18 1 Samuel 24:16-22

19 *And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these*
20 *words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And*
21 *Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. [17] And he said to David, Thou art*
22 *more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have*
23 *rewarded thee evil. [18] And thou hast shewed this day how that thou*
24 *hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the Lord had delivered me*
25 *into thine hand, thou killedst me not. [19] For if a man find his enemy,*
26 *will he let him go well away? wherefore the Lord reward thee good for*
27 *that thou hast done unto me this day. [20] And now, behold, I know well*
28 *that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be*
29 *established in thine hand. [21] Swear now therefore unto me by the*
30 *Lord, that thou wilt not cut off my seed after me, and that thou wilt not*
31 *destroy my name out of my father's house. [22] And David sware unto*
32 *Saul. And Saul went home; but David and his men gat them up unto*
33 *the hold.*

34

35 Here is a great difference between Saul and David: both knew God's plan
36 for their lives and the nations. But Saul placed his own desires ahead of

1 God's and it cost him. Now both men go home. David is too smart to
2 believe much of what Saul says and goes deeper and deeper into the
3 wilderness. He knows there will come a time when Saul chases him
4 once more.

5
6 Was Saul demon possessed by now? Probably, since scripture indicates
7 that an evil spirit had come upon him.

8

9 **THE PROPHET SAMUEL DIES / ENTER: ABIGAIL**

10

11 1 Samuel 25:1

12 *And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and*
13 *lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose,*
14 *and went down to the wilderness of Paran.*

15

16 David must have been aware immediately upon the death of the great
17 prophet who had anointed him that he was now the spiritual head of
18 his nation.

19

20 But to fill Samuel's shoes was a prodigious responsibility. Samuel
21 had been:

22

- 23 ✓ the human bridge between the judges of Israel and the kings
- 24 ✓ he was the last of the judges and the first of the prophets
- 25 ✓ he was the primary source of good in the land
- 26 ✓ he was the buffer between the Old Testament David and Saul

27

28 Now we come to the story of the lady who should have been the "first
29 lady of Israel" perhaps – the lady, Abigail.

30

31 1 Samuel 25:2-3

32 *And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and*
33 *the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a*
34 *thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. [3] Now the*
35 *name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she*
36 *was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance:*

1 *but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house*
2 *of Caleb.*

3
4 Did you ever meet anyone like Nabal? He was a fool, a joke, a rich
5 “nothing.” But he had a fabulous wife – Abigail. Now David had proven
6 himself to be a sort of protector for the farmers against thieves in the land
7 and had apparently kept Nabal’s livestock safe. When he approached
8 Nabal about being paid for the protection with food, Nabal rebuffed him.

9
10 1 Samuel 25:9-14

11 *And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to*
12 *all those words in the name of David, and ceased.*

13 *[10] And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and*
14 *who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break*
15 *away every man from his master. [11] Shall I then take my bread, and*
16 *my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it*
17 *unto men, whom I know not whence they be? [12] So David's young*
18 *men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those*
19 *sayings. [13] And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his*
20 *sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded*
21 *on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men;*
22 *and two hundred abode by the stuff.*

23 *[14] But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying,*
24 *Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our*
25 *master; and he railed on them.*

26
27 Nabal was so stupid that he just shrugged David off and mocked him.
28 Wrong thing to say to this young warrior who had killed a lion and a bear
29 and a giant.

30
31 David said to his men, “Load up, guys, we’re getting this guy now!” But
32 one of the servants had some real sense and got word to Nabal’s wife that
33 there was serious trouble looming: 1 Samuel 25:18-24

34 *Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles*
35 *of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched*
36 *corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs,*

1 *and laid them on asses. [19] And she said unto her servants, Go on*
2 *before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband*
3 *Nabal. [20] And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down*
4 *by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down*
5 *against her; and she met them. [21] Now David had said, Surely in vain*
6 *have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing*
7 *was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil*
8 *for good. [22] So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I*
9 *leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that (of Nabal's*
10 *helpers). [23] And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off*
11 *the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the*
12 *ground, [24] And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me*
13 *let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine*
14 *audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.*

15

16 We are going to see how David fell in love with Abigail and actually
17 married her.

18

19 Her plea to David was remarkable!