

Secure in the Lord

1 Samuel 25

David is insulted by a man named Nabal. David's response gives us both a positive and negative example of how we should respond to those who mistreat us.

Have you ever dealt with anyone who was "surly and mean"?

1 Samuel 25:2-3 (ESV)

*2*And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. *3*Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite.

1. Contrast Nabal and Abigail according to vv.2-3.

1 Samuel 25:10-38

2. Which of the following paraphrases best describes Nabal's response to David's request (v. 10)

<p><input type="checkbox"/> I'm too busy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Whose side are you on</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I can't spare the supplies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Why should I ?</p>
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3. David did not have the same patience with Nabal that he had with Saul. How did he plan to respond to Nabal's rudeness?
4. Why is David so offended by Nabal's response to his request (vv.4-13, 21-22) ?
5. What methods do we sometimes use to "get even" with those who mistreat us?
6. What impresses you about Abigail's response when she finds out what has happened (vv. 14-32) ?

7. How is David's relationship with Nabal similar to his relationship with Saul?
8. What lesson is the Lord repeatedly trying to drive home to David and to us?
9. Do you see any principles in 1 Samuel 25:39 that could be applied in your future dealings with difficult people?
10. Think of someone who has recently mistreated you. How can this study affect your attitude and actions toward that person?

Read *Romans 12:19-21*

Take time to pray for that person who has recently mistreated you. Ask the Lord for grace to show love toward the person and to entrust the matter into God's hands.