



stand & LOVE
FIRM well

**How to be Faithful to God and Genuinely Love Others
When Engaging Culture that is at Odds with Faith in Jesus**

Part 9:
Avoid Unrealistic
Expectations,
Overreactions, and
Overcorrections

1 Samuel 25:1

Now Samuel died, and all Israel gathered for his funeral. They buried him at his house in Ramah. Then David moved down to the wilderness of Maon.

1 Samuel 25:2

There was a wealthy man from Maon who owned property near the town of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats, and it was sheep-shearing time.

1 Samuel 25:3

This man's name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings.

1 Samuel 25:4

When David heard that Nabal was
shearing his sheep,

1 Samuel 25:5

he sent ten of his young men to
Carmel with this message for
Nabal:

1 Samuel 25:6

“Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own!”

1 Samuel 25:7

I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them.

1 Samuel 25:8a

Ask your own men, and they will tell you this is true. So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration?

1 Samuel 25:8b

Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David.”

1 Samuel 25:9

David's young men gave this message to Nabal in David's name, and they waited for a reply.

1 Samuel 25:10

“Who is this fellow David?” Nabal sneered to the young men. “Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters.”

1 Samuel 25:11

Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I've slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?"

1 Samuel 25:12

So David's young men returned and told him what Nabal had said.

1 Samuel 25:13

“Get your swords!” was David’s reply as he strapped on his own.

Then 400 men started off with David, and 200 remained behind to guard their equipment.

1 Samuel 25:14

Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail and told her, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them."

1 Samuel 25:15

These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us.

1 Samuel 25:16

In fact, day and night they were like
a wall of protection to us and the
sheep.

1 Samuel 25:17

You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!"

1 Samuel 25:18a

Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread, two wineskins full of wine, five sheep that had been slaughtered,

1 Samuel 25:18b

nearly a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes.

**She packed them on donkeys and
said to her servants,**

1 Samuel 25:19

“Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly.” But she didn’t tell her husband Nabal what she was doing.

1 Samuel 25:20

As she was riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw David and his men coming toward her.

1 Samuel 25:21

David had just been saying, “A lot of good it did to help this fellow. We protected his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing he owned was lost or stolen.”

1 Samuel 25:22

But he has repaid me evil for good.

**May God strike me and kill me if
even one man of his household is
still alive tomorrow morning!”**



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**How to be Faithful to God and Genuinely Love Others
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Principle #1

**How we respond to error, sin, pain,
and injustice reveals the depths of
our spiritual maturity and our
faithfulness to Christ.**

Principle #2

When we believe we are the target of an offence, sin, or injustice; we need to evaluate what part we may have played in the conflict, and we must take ownership of our part.

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David's Flawed Expectations

David had an unspoken expectation that also happened to be an unrealistic expectation.

Principle #2

When we believe we are the target of an offence, sin, or injustice; we need to evaluate what part we may have played in the conflict, and we must take ownership of our part.

Principle #3

In an effort to try and respond to an offence, sin, or injustice and in an effort to solve a real problem or issue; it is a human tendency to overreact and overcorrect.

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Principle #3

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Principle #4

After we believe an offence, sin, or injustice has been committed against us; before we react, we need to seek the Lord's face so that He gives us the appropriate response.

Principle #5

When we find ourselves struggling with an overwhelming desire to hate, to seek vengeance, or to invert justice; we need to explore with God and with others the root causes of those desires.

Motives Known to David

- **Ancient Near East customs and OT laws dictate that Nabal should help David and Nabal refuses.**
- **Nabal unnecessarily insults David, his family, and his men.**

His Unknown Motives

- **Samuel's death**
- **Probably no one valued Samuel more than David.**
- **Samuel dies at a time when David is in his most difficult season.**

David's Pent-Up Anger

- Was David able to attend the service? Or did he have to observe from afar?
- What does Samuel's death mean for the futures of David and Saul?

David's Internal Struggles

- Did I do the right thing when I let Saul live?
- Did I screw up God's plan for me because God said he would deliver my enemies in my hand?

David's Internal Struggles

- I believe I did the right thing and yet my men and I are still living like outlaws.
- First Saul and now Nabal, who is just like Saul!

Principle #5

When we find ourselves struggling with an overwhelming desire to hate, to seek vengeance, or to invert justice; we need to explore with God and with others the root causes of those desires.

Principle #6

Standing firm and loving others well is about sharing God's truth with people in such a way that they are able to see their mistake, feel driven to repent, and are thankful for your intervention.

1 Samuel 25:23

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him.

1 Samuel 25:24

She fell at his feet and said, “I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say.”

1 Samuel 25:25

I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.

1 Samuel 25:26a

“Now, my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, since the Lord has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own

1 Samuel 25:26b

hands, let all your enemies and
those who try to harm you be as
cursed as Nabal is.

1 Samuel 25:27

And here is a present that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men.

1 Samuel 25:28a

Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The Lord will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the Lord's battles.

1 Samuel 25:28b

And you have not done wrong
throughout your entire life.

1 Samuel 25:29a

Even when you are chased by those
who seek to kill you, your life is safe
in the care of the Lord your God,
secure in his treasure pouch!

1 Samuel 25:29b

But the lives of your enemies will
disappear like stones shot from a
sling!

1 Samuel 25:30

When the Lord has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, don't let this be a blemish on your record.

1 Samuel 25:31

Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the Lord has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!"

1 Samuel 25:32

David replied to Abigail, “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today!”

1 Samuel 25:33

**Thank God for your good sense!
Bless you for keeping me from
murder and from carrying out
vengeance with my own hands.**

1 Samuel 25:34

For I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal's men would still be alive tomorrow morning.”

1 Samuel 25:35

Then David accepted her present and told her, "Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband."

Principle #6

Standing firm and loving others well is about sharing God's truth with people in such a way that they are able to see their mistake, feel driven to repent, and are thankful for your intervention.

Principle #7

Standing firm and loving others well requires trusting God to deal with any and all types of offences, sins, and injustices according to His ways and His perfect timing.

1 Samuel 25:36a

When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal was throwing a big party and was celebrating like a king.

1 Samuel 25:36b

He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her meeting with David until dawn the next day.

1 Samuel 25:37

In the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke,[e] and he lay paralyzed on his bed like a stone.

1 Samuel 25:38

About ten days later, the Lord struck him, and he died.

1 Samuel 25:39a

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise the Lord, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself.

1 Samuel 25:39b

Nabal has received the punishment for his sin.” Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife.

Principle #7

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