

David: Humility in Danger 1 Samuel 25

When encountering someone with foolish pride, our response is often to dismiss or dominate the person. However, as Christians, we are called to follow the example of Christ by responding to pride with humility in seeking God and the greatest good.

Intro - Basketball Class video – (YouTube: <http://youtu.be/lhK5IY1Phm8>)

- I love that it's impossible for the brother to teach his little sister anything, even in their imaginary situation. But I also love that rather than **dismissing** or **dominating** her, he still tries to teach her. He still **seeks the Greater Good**.

The truth is...

- **We've all encountered foolish pride.** We've had **friends** one up us. We've had **family** members refuse to admit their wrongs. We've been burned by **arrogant "Christians"** who claim to follow God, yet have no love for His people.
- When confronted with foolish pride, we often **dismiss** or **dominate** the person... Is that really how Christians should respond?

This semester...

- We're studying **the Life of David through his stories and Psalms** in order to understand what made him a **"man after God's own heart."** I want us to understand what defined him because I want that heart for myself and for you. So far, we've looked at David's response to Sin, Rejection, Darkness, and Loss.

This morning...

- We're looking at **David's response to Foolish Pride (Psalm)**, but **more importantly, we're looking at Abigail's**. Because when we look at Abigail, we don't see her dismiss or dominate; instead, we see her **Humility in seeking the Greater Good and God**.

The Setup – Read: 1 Sam 25.2-4

- David is still in the wilderness with his **ragtag bunch of misfits**, and while he's out there he's a nice guy who **protects the locals** from bandits and bears and whatnot. This was pretty common back then, and when you were protected, it was customary to **pay back your protector** when harvest came. (**Tipping a waiter**)
- At this point, he's protecting **Nabal**, and when shearing time came, which was the big sheep harvest, David sent his men for **tips**.

Nabal Dismisses - Read: 1 Sam 25.10-11

- **Explain** – As soon as David's men start shaking the tip jar, Nabal comes back with this disrespectful quip about David's lack of loyalty and importance.
 - Nabal basically throws the tip jar back into their faces and completely dismisses David for what he sees as foolish pride on David's part.
- **Ex: bike lesson** – Learning to ride a bike is one of the most basic of childhood skills. This is why most kids learn how to ride a bike by the time they're 5 or 6. Well, I was "special" when it came to bike riding, which is why I was **8 years old and still didn't know how to ride**. Until one fateful day, my older sister, **Tracy walked into my room** and told me "Let's ride!"
 - Tracy guided me for a while, but I knew I'd never pick up the ladies with my sister pushing me, so I asked her to let go. She did. I fell. I **scraped my leg and started bleeding**.
 - I was ready to call it quits, but Tracy, ever the strong one, **told me I was fine** and to get back on. So I did. She let go. I fell. I **scraped my arm and continued bleeding**.

- Now, I'm covered in blood, my arm hurts, my head is beginning to feel fuzzy. But Tracy told me **"you're fine!"** and put me back on the bike. Next run, I beg her not to let go, but she does, and I finally get it! I'm riding down the street, excited out of my mind, and **slam directly into the back of a car!** As I lay on the ground, I begged Tracy to help me up or tell our parents I love them, but she simply looks at me and says **"you're fine. I'm going inside."**
- **Tracy thought I was foolish, so she dismissed me**
- **Point** – When was the last time you dismissed someone as an **"idiot"** or a **"crazy person"** who **"doesn't know anything"**? Is that the way Christians should respond? Is that how Christ would respond?
 - Nabal thinks David is a bit too full of himself, so Nabal completely dismisses David. Surely David will do better...

David Dominates - Read: 1 Sam 25.13,21-22

- **Explain** – David gets word of Nabal's dismissal, so he rounds up an impressive gang of **400 tough dudes** and plans on **murdering every single guy** hanging out with Nabal
 - David thinks Nabal is a bit too full of himself, so David decides to set the record straight by **completely dominating Nabal**
- **Ex:** Recently, while hanging out with my 2 ½ yr. old niece, Penelope, we were watching some *Curious George*. I was sitting on the couch while Pen was standing at the TV, which I thought was odd until I noticed she had grabbed an A/V cable and was chewing on it. I quickly used my dog owner instincts and said **"NO!"**
 - This brought an **immediate response of teary eyes** and questions of where mom was... Because apparently I can be a bit **intimidating to a 2 ½ yr. old**
 - **I thought Penelope was wrong, so I dominated her**
- **Point** – When was the last time you decided it was time to **"put him in his place"** or **"show her what's up"**? When was the last time you decided it was your job to put some humility into someone's heart? Is that how Christians should respond?
 - After these two guys fail, we find **Abigail**, who **sees the same pride, but doesn't dismiss or dominate**. Instead...

Abigail seeking the Greater Good – Read: 1 Sam 25.23-25

- **Explain** – Nabal's wife gets word of everything that happened, so she immediately runs out to **apologize to David**
- **Point** – Abigail saw the foolish pride in her husband, but rather than dismissing or dominating him, she humbles herself, **not by giving in** to his wishes, but by **taking care** of him. **She seeks his greater good.**
- **Ex:** Shortly after Susan and I got married, I spoke at our annual youth retreat for the first time. I was having a blast while feeling slightly stressed out and **kept calling audibles** on my talks. One such audible resulted in me telling a story about one of my ridiculous JH guys that poked at his **interesting political views**. It was a great example. Tons of fun.
 - After the talk, I felt good and asked Susan what she thought. She immediately **got her serious face on** and told me I had been wrong to tell the story about my kid. I asked why. She said it felt like we were **laughing at him** and not with him, and that was incredibly inconsiderate on my part.
 - Naturally, I got **super defensive** at the time and immediately went to talk to one of my leaders about how completely appropriate my story was. But later that evening I realized **Susan was exactly right.**
- **App** – When confronted with foolish pride, we're not called to dominate that person to **"teach them a lesson"** but we are called to humble ourselves and seek the greater good. Ask yourself **"What's best for this person?"**
 - Sometimes that means you have a tough conversation: **In the right place at the right time in the right way.**

Abigail seeking God – Read: 1 Sam 25.28-31

- **Explain** – Abigail goes on to **affirm David's position** as the Lord's anointed and reminds David that his **decision to kill Nabal will bring grief and guilt** upon himself because he's not trusting God.
- **Point** – Abigail saw the foolish pride in David, but rather than dismissing him as foolish or unimportant, **she trusts God** and gently **reminds David** to
 - Abigail doesn't just humble herself and seek the greater good. She humbles herself and seeks God above all else.
- **Ex: Jesus in the Garden** – When we look at the perfect example of Christ, we see Him humble himself in **trusting God (Matt 26.39)** by seeking the greater good on **our behalf (Matt 26.51-54)**
 - And thanks to His humility, **we can experience the greatest good through trusting Him**
- **App** – When confronted with foolish pride, we're not called to dismiss that person as pointless. We're called to **pray for them**. To **put God in front** of them. To **seek God above all** else.

1 Samuel 25:2-4 (ESV) 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. 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. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

1 Samuel 25:10-13 (ESV) And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this. And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

1 Samuel 25:21-22 (ESV) Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

1 Samuel 25:23-25 (ESV) When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

1 Samuel 25:28-31 (ESV) Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the Lord, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the Lord your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when the Lord has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the Lord has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

Matthew 26:39 (ESV) And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:51-54 (ESV) And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"