

## A Stubborn Man

**1 Samuel 25:3** Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

nâbâl *naw-bawl'* From [H5034](#); stupid; wicked (especially impious): - fool (-ish, -ish man, -ish woman), vile person.

Churlish: qâsheh *kaw-sheh'* From [H7185](#); severe (in various applications): - churlish, cruel, grievous, hard ([-hearted], thing), heavy, + impudent, obstinate, prevailed, rough (-ly), sore, sorrowful, stiff ([-necked]), stubborn, + in trouble.

The story of Nabal is a story of every man that walks not with God but in the ways of the world; seeking the lusts of the world and never being satisfied; having gained riches yet no peace. It is a story; but more importantly; a warning to the stubborn and hard-hearted man.

### Nabal was Stubborn Man

**1 Samuel 25:2** And *there was* a man in Maon, whose possessions *were* in Carmel; and the man *was* very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 Now the name of the man *was* Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and *she was* a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man *was* churlish and evil in his doings; and he *was* of the house of Caleb.

Nabal was a very great man with many possessions; yet he was poor in spirit; destitute in his soul for the riches of God. For what he had gained and possessed materially had emptied his spirit and soul of the important things concerning this pilgrim's walk upon the earth; namely charity and compassion.

Nabal was a most stubborn and hard hearted man; a descendant of Caleb according to the flesh; but not of the same spirit; for Caleb was a man of God and walked in the spirit of God. While he inherited Caleb's estate, Maon and Carmel, he inherited none of his virtues.

Nabal was also of the tribe of Judah as was David. We see that Nabal chose his own way; for we are not destined by family or tribe; but are shaped by our own free-will and choices. We are most stubborn not by birth but by choice.

Nabal was blind to the blessings he had; for he had a wife of good understanding and beautiful in countenance; yet despite these blessings of a beautiful wife and riches he was churlish and evil in his ways; to sum it up he was unthankful and it made his soul bitter. A man of stubborn disposition and callousness of heart.

### Nabal was a Foolish Man

**1 Samuel 25:4** And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. 5 And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: 6 And thus shall ye say to him that liveth *in prosperity*, Peace *be* both to thee, and peace *be* to thine house, and peace *be* unto all that thou hast. 7 And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

8 Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. 9 And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

10 And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who *is* David? and who *is* the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. 11 Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give *it* unto men, whom I know not whence they *be*?

Nabal is full of the pride of the devil proclaiming all that was his and not realizing that all blessings and possessions come from God above; his attitude is the same as the fallen one himself.

**Isaiah 14:12** How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

The foolish Nabal, a most stubborn man; David and his men had done him good; yet he repays them with insults and railings. Nabal knew very well who David was; for he knew he was the son of Jesse “and who is the son of Jesse?” David comes humbly asking only for “whatsoever cometh to thine hands” David even comes to Nabal as his son “unto thy servants, and to thy son David.” Yet Nabal, a most stubborn and foolish man of a hard heart and disposition rebukes this humble request. Such has the riches and world turned the heart of Nabal.

Nabal allowed the world to shape his heart and direct the content of his character; as many do in this present time; the love of God has been removed from the heart and replaced with the coldness of the world. Nabal railed against David, as many rail against God today. David asked expecting to receive and was rebuked by a most stubborn man. Today God asks for Faith, Love, Charity and is rebuked.

**Matthew 7:9** Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? (Nabal was such a man.)

**Matthew 25:34** Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. (THE FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL)

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (THE FRUIT OF THE WORLDLY HEART)

### **Nabal was an Ungodly Man**

**1 Samuel 25:17** Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he *is such* a son of Belial, that *a man* cannot speak to him.

beli<sup>^</sup>ya'al *bel-e-yah'-al* From H1097 and H3276; *without profit, worthlessness*; by extension *destruction, wickedness* (often in connection with H376, H802, H1121, etc.): - Belial, evil, naughty, ungodly (men), wicked.

Nabal is known as a son of Belial; a man without profit (spiritually) worthless, evil, ungodly. Such is a man without the spirit of God to tame his soul. Nabal was a stubborn man with whom no one could speak and reason with; therefore his servants, knowing the futility of trying to speak and reason with him; instead turned to Abigail.

Nabal was that foolish man.

(Nabal's wife Abigail hearing of the foolishness of her husband quickly made haste to bring unto David the supplication and gifts to curb his anger. **1 Samuel 25:18-24**)

**1 Samuel 25:25** Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, *even* Nabal: for as his name *is*, so *is* he; Nabal *is* his name, and folly *is* with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

Nabal lived up to his name and folly was with him.

Folly: Feminine of H5036; *foolishness*, that is, (morally) *wickedness*; concretely a *crime*; by extension *punishment*: - folly, vile, villany.

Nabal whose stubborn disposition separated him from God was to bring God's punishment upon him as his foolish ways determined; David was coming to bring a judgment upon Nabal for his rejection of David's kindness and the protection of his shepherds and flocks in the fields.

The spirit of Nabal runs through many a person's soul's today; for many reject the kindness, protection, mercy and grace of the LORD Jesus Christ; yes the stubborn man is alive and well today and as Abigail intervened on Nabal's behalf and Nabal was spared that day and given a second chance; the LORD Jesus Christ intervened on the cross to give all of mankind a second chance.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. **17** For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

**18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. **21** But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

It is a stubborn man that rejects the LORD Jesus Christ and such a one that does; his folly will follow him to the grave and a devils Hell.

### **Nabal was a Doomed Man**

**Psalms 14:1** To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David. The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good.

A stubborn man lives as if there is no God; foolish are his ways and his thoughts, the stubborn man is bewitched by the world and doomed to it's fate. Destruction.

**Galatians 3:1** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

**2 Peter 3:7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**Revelation 21:8** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

**(1 Samuel 25:25-35** Abigail wisely talks David out of seeking revenge against Nabal.)

### **Nabal was a Drunkard**

**1 Samuel 25:36** And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart *was* merry within him, for he *was* very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

Nabal was a drunk; deceived by the strong drink, it cluttered his brain and fermented his spirit. It caused him to be contentious with his fellow man.

**Ephesians 5:18** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

**1 Corinthians 6:10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Strong drink merries the heart for a while but seduces the mind and brings pain upon the brow. The countenance of one is changed by the seduction of the drink and it dulls the spirit; beware of its power upon the soul.

### Nabal's Death

*"A coward dies a thousand times before his death, but the valiant taste of death but once. It seems to me most strange that men should fear, seeing that death, a necessary end, will come when it will come."* – William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*.

**1 Samuel 25:37** But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

Nabal died with a heart of stone; unfeeling, melancholic, he died a death a thousand times over in this state. A heart of stone with a seared conscience, mortified pride, joyless and filled with worldly sorrow. His heart died before it had beaten its last beat. The merriment of the wine had worn off and the reality of the situation had set in; Nabal had made a fool of himself and his life was spared by the intervention of his wife. Nabals' folly was evident for all to see and his heart died within him.

Nabal died many times over within himself.

He died while his heart yet still beat within him  
He died in a state of melancholy  
He died in a state of regret  
He died friendless

**1 Samuel 25:38** And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

Nabal laid in this state for ten days, dying a coward's death a thousand times over. We are not told what manner of death Nabal died other than he was smote by God; God judgement came upon him. Perhaps all the wickedness of Nabals life came upon him and his heart succumbed to the bitter grief of a wasted life and the realization of eternal damnation. God brought all of this to bear in realization too great for Nabal; and Nabal died a man of stubborn disposition. Even upon his death bed the stubbornness of his spirit could not be reconciled to almighty God. David was spared from spilling Nabal's blood, but God in His time avenged and justice was wrought upon the head of Nabal; as it will be upon all wicked and unbelieving mankind.

**Romans 12:19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

**1 Samuel 25:39** And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife.

*For the Lord hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head; and upon no other, none of his family suffered but himself, and which was another cause of thankfulness to David; had he been suffered to have done as he in his wrath determined, not only Nabal, but all the males in his house, had been cut off; but now, through the righteous judgment of God, only Nabal suffered, and not any of his family: - John Gill*

Nabal died in his wickedness and through his foolish ways he lost all that he had and all that he ever would have; for he brought God's judgement upon his own head. He had lost all his possessions that he so coveted, and he lost his wife to David. All this could have been avoided with a kind word and giving heart; but Nabal was a most stubborn man and with a stubborn disposition he died; smote by God; whose justice is righteous and sure.

Beloved do not live as Nabal; receive the salvation and spirit of God. Live a life worthy of the sacrifice God has made for you upon the cross; live not as the world but as a child of God; so that at the time of your death our heavenly Father may look upon you and say...

**Matthew 25:21** His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:

JESUS SAVES-To God be the Glory