

## Staying close to God

It seems that Christians that are teens and then grow into adulthood have their faith challenged as adults. (Being an adult does not make you a well-behaved person.)

As a matter of fact, there are a lot of vices that have the word “adult” attached to them that are not good for anybody.

Why is it that we have Christian expectations for our kids and then feel like as an adult we can make all sorts of compromises?

We have talked a lot about David and his godly exploits, but today we see a “chink” in his adult armor. (Peter walked on the water and he also started to sink.)

Discipleship **helps everyone to grow, but it also involves help with our insufficiencies**. (Some just choose to keep their lives hidden to all except the few they live with. This does not help anyone to grow, however.)

As the Rich Mullins song states, “we are not as strong as we think we are”. (Our dependence on God, and the avenues that he provides is essential for our wellbeing.)

### 1. Nabal the foolish man- (He was married to a woman that the bible says is beautiful)

- Could we assume this is an arranged marriage? More than likely, but these days we see people that are sensible marrying unsensible people too.

1 Samuel 25:2–3 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

a.) Nabal means “fool”! (Was this attached to him, or just destiny? (Many people think that wealth makes people more sensible, but here is one of many proofs that this is not so.)

b.) We are all born into sin, and we must be delivered from our foolishness. (We also must grow to keep from running back to it!)

1 Corinthians 2:14–16 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

<sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

<sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

- David and his men had been dwelling outside of Nabal’s property and they had protected the sheep of Nabal’s as a courtesy. (Every time it was time to shear the sheep, the owners of the sheep would have a big feast and celebration.)

- David, formerly a shepherd, knew this and had some of his men go to Nabal and ask if they could partake of some of the celebratory food of this foolish, wealthy man.

1 Samuel 25:9–11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited.

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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?"

a.) Nabal knew who David was. He was very famous. (Note; Servants breaking from their masters. He was a smart aleck.)

1. David's fleshly temper- (He handled this as if he were the big kid on the playground.)

- Was Nabal wrong? Yes. Did it warrant the death of everyone around Nabal? No

1 Samuel 25:12–13 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this.

<sup>13</sup>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.

a.) One of the things that we must do, is to grow in being spirit-led people.

b.) Being a king, or whatever authority does not change our need for growth!

Galatians 5:22–26 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

<sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

a.) Certainly, someone needed to be more godly than Nabal!

Colossians 3:1–4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

<sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

<sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

<sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- As we all know, this is a daily endeavor. Sometimes we fail, but we press on! (Church!)

1. Abigail's sensibility- (This situation wasn't going to end well!) Not for Nabal and his people, and not for the reputation of David and his ability to lead.

- So, some of the sensible workers of Nabal came to sensible Abigail, and warned her of what was brewing.

- She immediately prepared food and headed towards David's troop advance.

1 Samuel 25:25 (ESV)



<sup>25</sup> 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.

a.) Interestingly, she stated that her husband was worthless. (She also acknowledged his name describing him as a fool.)

b.) She offers the food, acknowledges David's kingship, she acknowledges that he has made godly decisions and has demonstrated that God was with him. (Reminds even!)

1 Samuel 25:29 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> 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.

- She reminds David that God is taking care of him with enemies and knows that God can provide victory with a sling.

- These are all very good reminders that bring David back towards perspective.

1 John 1:1–3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

<sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

c) David's life is with Christ, and that was to be his guide, and that is the same for us!

- She reminds him that he will be king and was asking that her husband's action could receive mercy from his stupidity.

- Daily, we need God's mercy and grace.

Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

- David accepted her food, and her wisdom.

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- So Nabal had his party, and after he sobered up, she told him what she did.

- It appears that he had a heart attack. (From blood pressure, or whatever. He lived 10 more days and died.)

1 Samuel 25:39 (ESV)

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