# Third Street Presbyterian Church (USA)

# Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021 - 6pm**

**Welcome /Introductions: Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Barbara J. Arnold**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**The Word**   **1 Samuel 25:14-17, 23-28, 32-35**

**1 Samuel 25:14-17**

**14**One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. **15**Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. **16**Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. **17**Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him.”

**1 Samuel 25:23-28**

**23**When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. **24**She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. **25**Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. **26**And now, my lord, as surely as the Lord your God lives and as you live, since the Lord has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. **27**And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. **28**“Please forgive your servant’s presumption. The Lord your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the Lord’s battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live.

**1 Samuel 25:32-35**

 **32**David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. **33**May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. **34**Otherwise, as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”**35**Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.”

**REFLECTION:**

David loses his temper because he is insulted by a foolish man. David is ready not only to kill this rich fool but every male in his household. It is a wise woman who, at her own risk acts in a way that spares her husband’s life and keeps David from acting foolishly. Perhaps the author of 1 Samuel wants us to look upon Abigail, Nabal’s wife, as not only a beautiful and wise woman, but an example of godly submission. Since her submission takes an unusual form, **we must pay close attention to this entire chapter 25** to get the complete story of what God is revealing to us in this study.

Abigail put everything on the line to save Nabal’s men. She prepared food and rode out to meet David and his four hundred men. When she met them she fell down before David and said “on me alone, my Lord, be the guilt” (v.24). She stepped in at great cost and risk to herself. No doubt this surprised David as the more unlikely person offered herself up for the men he intended to destroy. As we celebrate the Gifts of Women this coming Sunday, Abigail’s faithfulness to God is very timely in our study of these passages.

 In our lives today if we are going to play a role in keeping a bad situation from getting worse, it will cost us. Are you seeking to help resolve conflicts, disagreements with others, are you walking in God’s grace and knowing that God will fight these battles for you? God gave Abigail the courage to be willing to put everything on the line when it will bring glory to God and good to others. We can downplay the consequences of our action or our lack of action. We surely need to trust in our sovereign God, who is God alone! It is our God who upholds us and sustains us. In this season of Lent, and time of self-examination, will you trust God’s goodness and sovereignty and take the risk needed to bring about good?

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion:**

Please feel free to join in during the study discussion. We all learn and are studying God’s Word together. If you have questions or want to share, hit the **\* asterisk**  on your phone. This way the moderator will know you have comments. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith. We all are learning from God’s Word daily.

1. What is (one) focus verse from the passages that speaks to you today? How is God speaking to you in that verse?
2. Who makes a “secret appeal” (tells what David is planning) to Abigail? Does she act for or against her husband’s wishes? (1Samuel 25:14-17)
3. What “gift” did Abigail bring to David? She speaks of this gift in v. 27. (Also see1 Samuel v.17)
4. What was the first words David said in v. 32? Who did he give praise? What are some of your first words to God each day?
5. When Abigail chose to make peace with David, what were the positive results for her and her husband? for her household?(1Sam.v.32-35)
6. What does Abigail’s choice say to us when we are called to make a righteous choice? How can these choices impact those around you?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

What is your take away from this lesson from 1Samuel; 25 today? Strive to make righteous decisions that bring about peace. As you journey through this season of Lent, take a lesson learned tonight and apply to your life going forward. Knowing God is your sovereign guide and strength.

**Sharing Inspiration and Mission Giving:**

What is inspiring you in these times of the new normal way of life? God is still doing a great work in all of us. If you desire to do so, share briefly with the study group tonight. Pastor will ask that you use the( \* asterisk) button on your phone to signal you want to share. Share your name and inspiration .

***One Great Hour of Sharing Offering –* March 3- April 4, 2021**-For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world. Please mail or drop off at the church in the mail slot.

**Evening Prayer:**

#### Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We lift up prayer requests at this time, we lift up our joys and concerns before the Lord. Close with the Lord’s Prayer. *Our Father who art in heaven…..*

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending: - Pastor Reid-** *At the close of the day when we knell down to pray we ask the Lord to keep us strong and forgive for all our wrong…..Go in peace knowing God’s protection surrounds you, always!*

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! Our Next Bible Study will be **March 10 at 6pm.**

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid

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