

## 1Samuel 25

### " Looking to the Lord for Provision, Vindication, Justice... & the Faith to Do So"

***How can we look to the Lord for provision and vindication, when everything seems to be going against us? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these forty-four verses, we learn that even when the Lord has graciously spared us in previous temptation, we must be watchful against the next temptation. We already know that He provides, He vindicates, and He avenges. But, we don't have it in us to rest upon and respond to those things. God Himself, however, graciously spares us. This is what He did for David, who had spared Saul, but was about to avenge himself upon Nabal. The LORD graciously sends Abigail to remind David of the truth to which he needs to cling, sparing David (again!) from committing the sin of avenging himself.***

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First Samuel 25. These are gods words. Then Samuel died. And those were lights gathered together in lamented for him and buried him at his home in Rama and David arose and went down to the wilderness of Ryan. Now there was a man in Mayon who's business was in Carmel.

And the man was very rich, he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. The name of the man was in the bell and the name of his wife. Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance. But the man was harsh.

And evil in his doings. He was of the house of Caleb. When David heard in the wilderness that Nebula was hearing his sheet. David sent ten young men and David said to the young man go up to Carmel go to the ball and greet him in my name. And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity, peace be to you, peace to your house, peace to all that you have.

Now I've heard that you have sharers your shepherds were with us and we did not hurt them nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in caramel ask your young men, they will tell you therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes for we come on a feast day, please give whatever comes to your hand.

To your servants and to your son David. So and David's young men came they expect in a ball according to oldies words in the name of David and waited. Then a ball answer David servants and said who is David and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays you break away each one from his master shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men when I do not know where they are from.

So David's young men turned on their heels and went back. And they came and told him all these words. Then David said to his men. Every man gird on his sword. So every man girded on his sword. David also girded on his sword. In about 400 men went with David and 200 stayed with the splice.

Means they put their sword on that, baby. Now one of the young men told Abigail and the ball's wife saying look. David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master and he reviled them. But the men were very good to us and we were not hurt nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied then when we were in the fields they were a wall to us both by night and day all the time we were with them keeping the sheep.

Now therefore no and consider what you will do for harm is determined against our master and against all his household for he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him. Then Abigail made haste took 200 lives of bread two skins of wine five sheep already dressed five says roasted grain one hundred clusters of raisin, two hundred cakes of figs loaded them on donkeys.

And she said to her servants go on before me see. I'm coming after you. But she did not tell her husband of all. So it was as she rode in the donkey then she went down under cover of the hill and there where David and his men coming down toward her and she met them.

Now David had said Shirley in vain. I have protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness so that nothing was missing of all that belongs to him and he is or paid me evil for good. May God do so and more also to the enemies of David. If I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light.

Now when I have a guy you all saw David she meant dismantled quickly from the donkey fell on her face before David and bowed

down to the ground. So she fell at his feet and said on me my lord on me let this iniquity be and please let your maidservant speak in your ears and hear the words of your maid servant, please.

But not my Lord regarded this scoundrel in the bowels. For as his name so is he Nabal is his name and folly is with him but are you made servant did not see the young men of my Lord whom you sent now therefore my Lord as he always lives and as your soul lives since you always held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand now then let your enemies in those who seek harm for my Lord be as in the battle.

And now this present what you're made servant has brought to my Lord let it be given to the young men who follow my Lord please forgive the trespass of your maid servant for y'all, they will certainly make for my Lord and enduring else because my Lord fights the battles of Yahweh and evil is not found in you throughout your days.

Yet of that has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my Lord shall be bound and the bundle of the living with you all your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the pocket of a sling. And then shall come to pass when you only has done for my Lord according to all that he has spoken concerning you and as appointed you ruler over Israel that this will be no grief to you nor offensive heart to my Lord either that you have shed blood without cause or that my Lord has avenged himself but when you always what dealt well with my Lord and remember you're made servant.

David said to have a gal blessed as he always got of Israel who sent you this day to meet me and blessed is your advice and blessed are you? Because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed in a vengeance from avenging myself in my own hand for indeed as you always go to Israel lives who has kept me back from hurting you unless you had hurried and come to meet me surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal.

So David received from her hand, which she had brought him and he said to her go up and peace now to your house see. I've heeded your voice and I've respected your person. Now of a Galiel went to the bell and there he was holding a feast in his house like the feast of a king.

And the bell's heart was merry within him for he was very drunk. Therefore she told him nothing little or much until morning light. So it was in the morning when the wine had gone from the bell and his wife told him these things his heart died within him. And he became like a stone.

And then it happened after about ten days he always struck the bell. And he died. So when David heard that the bell was dead, he said blessed be always pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of the bell and this kept his servant from evil. For he always has returned to the wickedness of the bell on his own head.

And David sent and proposed to Abigail Abigail to take her as his wife when the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel they spoke to her saying David sent us to you to ask you to become his wife. And she arose and bowed her face to the earth and said here is your maid servant servant to wash the feet of the servants of the Lord.

Sabagay all rose in haste and rode on a donkey attended by five of her maidens. And she followed the messengers of David and became his wife. David also took a no lamb of his real so both of them were his wives. But Saul had given Macau his daughter. David's wife to Palty son of Laish who was from Gilead.

So far the reading of God's inspired in an era worked. So the teaching of the chapter as a whole is that David was sorely tempted by Nabal. To avenge himself upon him. For not helping David out. And that in the sore temptation the Lord used Abigail. To keep David from committing the sin of avenging himself to remind him that the Lord was going to avenge David the vengeance belongs to Lord and that having kept David from committing the sin of avenging himself in that way then the Lord goes ahead and Avenged David for him.

So you see that we need to keep our guard up against sin just having said no to a particular sin once by God's grace helping us to see that such a sin would be against the Lord remember when David didn't himself on Saul he said can't do it against the Lord's anointed.

His heart smote him. God made his heart tender and he saw that his sin would be against the Lord and when we resist temptation when we say no to sin, We do it by God's grace making us to see that the sin is against God and hating it for that reason.

It's not always a true and full resisting of sin and temptation just to not do it outwardly. If you are just counting the costs to yourself and really still wanting to do the sin, but thinking it's gonna be inconvenient or there'll be tough consequences and so you still love the sin in your heart, but don't extend your end.

To do it. You're not fully resisting, but David had fully resisted that sin just in the previous chapter with Saul. And God granting to

us that we fully resist sin recognize it as against him have a tender conscience toward him ate it for that reason and say no to it and don't do it out of love for him what for Samuel 25 does for us as it shows us that even when we have done this we need to still keep our guard up because here's almost the same exact sin.

It's sheep shearing time which means that they have been gathering provisions this is like an end of the year harvest feast harvest festival note all of the things that Abigail Abigail has ready on hand to send to to David's men, it tells us that the sheeps me that she sends was already dressed and prepared so.

She and her maidens are maybe just her maidens or whoever it was doing the food prep for the feast, she had a bunch of food prep already yeah the raisin cakes were. Already in the sheep already and so so forth now. David knew that it was that seasoning very specifically knew that nabal was having a sheep shearing why because David and his men who total six hundred four hundred were going to go and execute the household of the bell one two hundred stayed with the baggage and David and his men had spent that season guarding the bowels very very large flock.

In fact when the bows young men are giving Abigail the report they say they were like a wall to us and we didn't lose anything so long as we as we are with them so David had the inside info because he'd been serving the bell he and his men had been serving the bell for that entire year that entire season.

When shearing time was a celebration time as Nibel obviously felt entitled to having a feast like a king in which he conducted himself like a wicked king getting very drunk. And so. 600 men are very expensive to maintain and they're in the wilderness and so they're burning through whatever resources they have and they come to the the end of the year and David sends the young men and so say it's a time of feasting you are overspending like a like a king who has had a very good year one of the reasons you've had is a very good years because we've helped you overspend a little bit on us send just in whatever comes to your hand.

I'm not asking for anything specific just be generous with us. Out of the the riches of the Lord has blessed you with in part by means of our protection and our help of course nobel is this harsh and evil. Man. Lord keep you boys in your strength and energy.

From being harsh but make you rather be strong with the strength of a man who has control not just over situations, but over himself and his gentle. And so David says peace peace peace in verse six peace to you peace to your house peace to all that you have and the bow says basically I don't have to have peace with you not sure.

I want to have peace with you because many servants are breaking away from their masters these days he basically accuses David of treason and, David has been giving Saul the benefit of the doubt whenever he encounters Saul and we'll see it again in the next chapter he says, why are you listening to people who tell you that?

I'm against you, of course Saul is telling everyone that David is against him it's been going the other way but here's one who has fallen in line with the Saul narrative that David is treasonous rebellious man, and of course, that's not true and I bet I you'll Abigail knows the truth, she's.

As about the same situation in verse 29 yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, she says I know that you are not treasonous against Saul doing the ball had accused David of being but you are following the Lord and since you are maintaining your integrity before God and Saul is the one who's in the wrong keep trusting.

God, you'll avenge himself on you. Send a Bell and Abigail give very different opposite accounts, but you can see how nobel is styling himself an enemy because now he isn't just he isn't just refusing to help David who has serious needs 600 men to take care of in the wilderness but the way he's talking puts him in an alliance with the crown.

With salt and hunting David down and so now he's actually a legitimate threat to David. So David doesn't you know, having a temper tantrum when he says every man cured on your sword. The way that navel has answered has identified him as a legitimate threat to David and his men and their well-being.

And yet. And yet David was should not have avenged himself and the text helps us see that that's what the Lord is doing here he is protecting. David from committing this sin, so verse 26, she says as he always lives as your soul lives since he always has held you back.

From coming to bloodshed verse 29. The life of my Lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the all year God and the lives of your enemies he shall sing out as from the pocket of a sling so she reminds him that the Lord is the Avenger.

Verse 33 or back into verse 22, he blesses yall we go to Israel and then blessed is your advice blessed are you there are a few different triplets like the peace peace piece earlier that he sends and now blessed blessed blessed to Abigail? Lisa's buster you because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand and so.

Verse 39 in the last place blessed to be always who has pleaded the cause of my approach and has kept his servant from evil and so one of the main things that the Lord that David is blessing the Lord for in this chapter is keeping him from avenging himself, so three things that we learn in this passage to look to the Lord for one for our provision.

David really needed the supplies didn't he had six hundred men in the wilderness that's a lot of men to take care of. So we look to the Lord for our provision and if we look to the Lord for our provision that will keep us from committing wickedness in order to provide for ourselves, so for instance in the proverbs and it says don't give me poverty so that I don't don't end up stealing says I know my own sin no my own sinfulness if I get to be needy enough I will forget God because my faith this week, no a break has long steel.

So one thing to remember to look to the Lord for in this passage is your provision. So that you will not be fall into temptation to provide for yourself by stealing another thing to look to the Lord for is to vindicate you and avenge you Vindicate means to make everyone see that you are in the right you're gonna be in situations in your life, especially when someone is gossiping about you or perhaps even an illegal case or situation where you've been falsely accused or someone sues you.

And you may for a time appear to many to be in the wrong and in those seasons you will be tempted to do something wrong to try to indicate your own name now it's not wrong to plead your case, it's not wrong to love having a good name and to walk to have a good name in order to serve the Lord with it.

Proverbs tells us a good name is better than riches. And yet dressed like riches good name as something not to be gained by doing that which is wrong and the thing you'll be tempted to do most does not tell your 600 men to hurt on their sword and go eliminate this guy who is calling you a servant who is broken away from your master because well, you won't have 600 men of swords.

But what you will be tempted to do most of all this to slander people to gossip about them and even to do it just ever so slightly in conversations thinking about things to talk about or ways to say things that will make you appear in a slightly better light and make them appear and a slightly worse light.

You resist that by trusting in the Lord to vindicate you to show your good name to give you a good name with others and the same with vengeance the two are very close so you trust the Lord to provide for you and you trust the Lord to vindicate you and events avenge you and another thing to look for to the Lord for is.

Help for looking to the Lord. Because that's really the big thing that the Lord does here for David I'm just provide for his man he does provide for his men but he doesn't just provide for his men he doesn't just have any David although he does avenge David but he also and this is the almost and looks like the primary thing that David is praising him for by the end of the chapter he keeps David from avenging himself, he sends abugue to remind David that David should be looking to the Lord for provision.

Ing for vindication for his vengeance and that's helpful to us because when we hear you should look to the Lord for provision we know that's true but we also know in our hearts it's hard to look to the Lord for provision we worry and we panic and we are we easily fall into unbelief and sin we hear that we should shouldn't gossip that we should trust the Lord to vindicate our name we shouldn't avenge ourselves trust the Lord to set things right and only plead our case in.

Appropriate ways to appropriate authority and we we say oh yeah that's true but it's hard we want to avenge ourselves we want to gossip we've got that sinfulness left in our fleshiness and and so we say it's hard to look to the Lord for those things well good news you can even look to the Lord for the looking to the Lord it's the Holy Spirit who gives us faith, it's the Holy Spirit who makes us to walk by that faith and paths of righteousness.

We can pray with the psalmist lead me in paths of righteousness for your own namesake and the Lord even sends us. Others and sisters who are like Abigail to us reminding us of what the Lord has promised and that the Lord always keeps His promises and strengthening us stirring us up to love and good works like Hebrews 10 says that the church are all to do one for another especially in the Lord's days when we don't forsake the assembly of ourselves together, so you can look to the Lord for your provision.

Look to the Lord for your vindication and vengeance and even look to the Lord for you're looking to the Lord. And ask God to do that for us. Our. Father in heaven we thank you for this portion of your word and we do look to you for the looking to you we ask that your Holy Spirit would help us.

That he would keep on our minds and our hearts. What you have taught us from first aim of 25 that this portion of your word would find fertile soil that your spirit has softened within us so that your word would take root and that it would bear in our lives the fruit of being peaceable and counseling and receiving counsel from one another and trusting in you and walking straight and passive righteousness.

Please do this for my children their whole life long. I ask that when it comes into a season of great neediness or under attack from others that you would bring to their mind this worship this word this truth that we have seen from your word together just now. In that you would stir up their faith and joy and the Lord Jesus and that you would indeed deliver them out of every adversity as we know that you will do because we asked this through our Redeemer even the Lord Jesus and your children here say.

Amen.