

A Woman of Character  
Abigail  
By: Juanita Stevens

This year I would like to take us into the lives of some women of the Bible and see what we can learn from them. I would like to start with Abigail. She was a woman that God used in dealing with fools and the foolish things that others do. Her story begins in I Samuel 25.

Abigail was a beautiful, intelligent, and wise woman who loved the Lord. She listened close to what He was telling her to do and followed exactly what He said. She was married to a man named Nabal. He truly held to his name and lived a life as a wealthy fool. In Hebrew Nabal means one who acts foolishly, even immorally or with wickedness or impiety. Her life with Nabal was probably very hard. But she had been taught by her parents and God that she was to be submissive to him. She did that and showed him love even when he was a drunken fool.

I could just imagine how her life might have been. Sometimes very scary and challenging as she may not have known how her husband would react in his drunkenness, but she continued to do as God instructed her and loved her husband. In I Samuel 25 Nabal shows his foolishness in returning evil for good to David and his men when they came for some food for watching out for his men and his property. They had protected them from the enemies and yet he insulted David and sent the men on their way.

Now when David heard this he became upset and set out to do something foolish. He was going to take vengeance on Nabal and his household. Abigail heard about this and God granted her wisdom to intervene and keep both men from their foolishness. She went quickly and brought food to David and his men. She met him and told him the things that God had for her to say. That day God used her to stop David from unnecessary bloodshed and her husband from death at the hand of another.

When she told Nabal the next day what she had done, God intervened and caused Nabal to have a heart attack. Ten days later he died. Because of Abigail's trusting God and following Him to talk with David, God protected her and blessed her. Though her husband died she was now asked to be David's wife. She went from being married to a fool to being married to a King. God took her obedience and blessed her in a way she probably never expected.

When one is willing to do what God tells her to do even though she does not understand His purpose He will grant you unexpected blessings. But to know what God wants you to do you must be in close communication with Him and trust Him so much that you are surrendered to Him and whatever He says. You have no choice but to obey Him.

God shows us His will in His word. We need to understand God's way of thinking in order to show God's love to the fools in our lives. If we do not then they will receive our anger instead. God wants us to show His love to those who sometimes do foolish things.

“Wisdom in Greek is Sophia. Wisdom is divine insight into the knowledge you have of God’s Word. You are not given such insight by God until you know God’s Word. When you know God’s Word He takes your knowledge and makes it into practical direction and application for how you should live. Without wisdom you are totally helpless to apply God’s Word.” (Life Principles from the Women of the Bible, Book 2)

I Peter 3:1-7 talks about being a submissive wife. When you are a submissive wife to your husband you help lead him closer to the Lord because you are showing that you are first submissive to the Lord.

My husband was a fool at times, but together we grew closer to the Lord. On our second anniversary he told me thank you for being patient with him. He continued on to tell me that he was sorry for the many things that we had been through, but that he had asked God to do whatever it took to get him up to speed to where I was spiritually, because he knew he was not there. By this point God had brought him to a deep relationship with him and he was able to lead and be the man of God that he was supposed to be. God blessed us in some very special ways. Our last 6 months together were the best and most God honoring days that we ever could have had.

Though our first 2 years were very tough God grew us both closer to Himself and each other. I learned I Peter 3:1-7 growing up and knew that God would have me to be submissive to my husband. I did that and He did great things. Remember when you listen to God and obey, He will bless you beyond your wildest imagination. When you lack wisdom God tells us in His Word in James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given him.” God wants to give you His wisdom if you would just ask and then follow His leading.