

1 Samuel 25 - “Your Labor is Not in Vain in the Lord”

Outline

- v1** all Israel lamented the death of Samuel
- v2-3** introduction to Nabal, a rich man who was evil, and Abigail, a beautiful woman who had good understanding
- v4-9** David sent his servants to Nabal with peace, when Nabal had prosperity, to humbly request a reward for their hard work for him
- v10-11** Nabal arrogantly presumed evil accusations about David that were not true, and selfishly refused to give him anything
- v12-13** David and his men put on their swords and headed out
- v14-17** someone told Abigail what was going on, and how Nabal had railed on David's messengers
- v18-20** Abigail hurried, prepared a generous gift, and went and met David's men
- v21-22** David was about to utterly destroy every male who belonged to Nabal
- v23-28** Abigail humbly interceded with David for her husband
- v29-31** Abigail spoke of the good that the Lord would do for David, and entreated him not to kill and take revenge at this time
- v32-35** David blessed Abigail and told her how she prevented a massacre
- v36-38** Nabal was scared stiff, then the Lord took his life
- v39-42** After Nabal was dead, David married Abigail
- v43-44** David also married Ahinoam; Saul had given David's wife Michal to someone else

Key v21

“Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this [fellow] hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that [pertained] unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.”

Sometimes we might feel like we have been cheated because other people treat us unfairly; and we might feel like it was in vain that we have tried so hard to do what was right throughout the situation, because other people return evil for good. The problem with that perspective is that we should do good to be seen by and rewarded by the Lord, not just other people. If we believe that the Lord is real and faithful, then we can trust that He will see and reward us.

Application 1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

If we can know that our labor is in the Lord, then we can be sure that it certainly will not be in vain. Next time I feel upset about my labor seeming to be in vain, I'll be patient and forgiving to people, remembering that the Lord will work things out.