

# Titus Women

## ALL OF ME FOR ALL OF JESUS

We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

### ***A Woman of Wisdom***

In Bible Study on Tuesday nights, we are studying the stories of women who took their place in God's story by their actions of obedience. The "Daughter" in Mark 4 who reached out to Jesus and Martha in Luke 10 who listened to the voice of her friend when he explained "the better choice." This week, we learned about Abigail, a fascinating woman whose story is told in I Samuel 25.

Abigail was the wife of a wealthy and foolish man whose name was Nabal. David and his band of men assisted Nabal's shepherds with their herds and protected their flocks while they were in the wilderness, and David sent a messenger to Nabal to ask for food for his men in return for the favor of their security. Nabal grew angry and surly and refused any help for David's men. When David heard Nabal's answer, he called his men to fight and destroy every man of Nabal's household. Meanwhile, a servant who had overheard the messenger and Nabal's conversation runs to his mistress and tells her of Nabal's decision. At this point, to save her household, Abigail goes into action.

1. She acts quickly and decidedly as she gathers food for all of David's men and sends them on ahead to meet David as he advances against her household (18-19)
2. She follows afterward. She not only makes provision and sends a gift, but she also goes herself to address this "wilderness king/leader." She is neither afraid nor intimidated by those who would take the lives of her home (19)
3. She acts with humility before David. She bows to the ground and asks forgiveness, assuming responsibility for the deeds of Nabal (23-24).
4. She calls on David to honor the Lord and allow the Lord to take vengeance (26-28, 30-31).
5. She pronounces blessing on David and declares that his life will be "bound securely in the bundle of the living by the Lord your God" (29). This unusual blessing is one of life and security to a man who is running for his life and to whom God's promise is not yet fulfilled (29).

6. She declares that David *will* be appointed ruler over Israel, that the Lord *will* fulfill every good word He had promised, and David *will* have a clean conscience before the Lord when he is anointed king (30-31).

Abigail's wisdom astounds the reader with her perceptivity, discernment, and courage. She disarmed David and spoke blessing over him. She provided for the needs of David's men with abundant food. She protected her household, and in doing so, God honored her and protected her from the folly of her husband.

What do we learn from Abigail? A woman who fears the Lord is a woman with the capacity to act quickly in danger, to have presence of mind in times of crisis, to give generously and freely, to face an angry foe with blessing and wisdom. Abigail's wisdom came because she feared the Lord, and she herself was "bundled up" in His loving care. This gift of wisdom is available to any woman who fears the Lord and walks with Him in His ways.

These are the days in which we need discernment and courage like never before. May the Lord grant to us a heart of wisdom for the needs of today, both small and large.

