

I. A Lady With A Difficult Man (2-11)

- A. His terrible witness (3) – “Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved.” **Nabal = fool; harsh = cruel, hard, obstinate**
- B. His tremendous wealth (2) – “There was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats.” **Well-known, successful businessman in his city**
- C. His tactless words (9-12, 14) - “Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. 11 Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where... 14 Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them.” **The testimony of the Nabal’s employee**

II. A Lady With A Fire to Extinguish (12-17)

- A. Her king’s ego was bruised (12) - “So David’s young men turned away and came back and told him all this.”
- B. Her king’s anger was kindled (13) - “Every man strap on his sword!” And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David...”
- C. Her king’s generosity was spurned (15-16) - The servant recounts all the good David had done & how Nabal refused to appreciate it
- D. Her king’s mind was made up (17) – “Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him.”

IV. A Lady With Strength On Display (18-31)

- A. Strength revealed in her clarity of action (18) - **She prepared a feast in a moment’s notice for David’s hungry men**
- B. Strength revealed in her humility of heart (23-24) - **She gave David the honor that her sorry husband failed to give**
- C. Strength in her honesty of reasoning (25-31)
 - 1. **Honest about her husband (25) - She decided that saving his life was better than saving his reputation**
 - 2. **Honest about David’s potential mistake (26-28)**
 - 3. **Honest about the better path to pursue (29-31)**

V. A Lady With Favor From God (32-42)

- A. Abigail received favor with King David (32-35) - “Blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand.”
- B. Abigail received deliverance from Nabal (36-38) - “...his heart died within him, and he became as a stone...about ten days later...he died.”
- C. Abigail inherited security for her future (39-42) - **Nabal gets the grave, David gets the girl, Abigail gets a gentleman**
- D. Abigail held vindication in her arms (1 Chronicles 3:1) – “These are the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron...Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelite...” **Daniel means “God is my judge” God had preserved and prospered her**