

STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE

1. David's hot anger (vv. 1-13)
2. Abigail's cool-headed intercession (vv. 14-31)
3. David's grateful response (vv. 32-35)
4. David's great vindication by God! (vv. 36-42)

STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE

1. David's hot anger (vv. 1-13)

1 Samuel 26:1

Now Samuel died.

And all Israel assembled and mourned for him,
and they buried him in his house at Ramah.

Then David rose and went down
to the wilderness of Paran.

And 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.

He was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

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;
he was a Calebite.

1 Samuel 26:4-6

David heard in the wilderness
that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

So David sent ten young men.

And David said to the young men,
“Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal
and greet him in my name.

And thus you shall greet him:

‘Peace be to you,
and peace be to your house,
and peace be to all that you have.’”

1 Samuel 26:7-8

“I hear that you have shearers.
Now your shepherds have been with us,
and we did them no harm,
and they missed nothing
all the time they were in Carmel.

Ask your young men, and they will tell you.

“Therefore let my young men
find favor in your eyes,
for we come on a feast day.
Please give whatever you have at hand
to your servants and to your son David.”

When David's young men came,
they said all this to Nabal in the name of David,
and then they waited.

And Nabal answered David's servants,
“Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse?
There are many servants these days
who are breaking away from their masters.
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?”

1 Samuel 26:12-13

So David's young men turned away
and came back and told him all this.

And David said to his men,
“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,
while two hundred remained with the baggage.

Exodus 21:23-25

But if there is harm, then you shall pay
life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth,
hand for hand, foot for foot,
burn for burn, wound for wound,
stripe for stripe.

Leviticus 24:17-22

Whoever takes a human life
shall surely be put to death.

Whoever takes an animal's life
shall make it good, life for life.

If anyone injures his neighbor,
as he has done it shall be done to him,
fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth;
whatever injury he has given a person
shall be given to him.

Leviticus 24:17-22

Whoever kills an animal shall make it good,
and whoever kills a person shall be put to death.

You shall have the same rule
for the sojourner and for the native,
for I am the LORD your God.”

Matthew 5:38-42

“You have heard that it was said,
‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’
But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil.
But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek,
turn to him the other also.
And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic,
let him have your cloak as well.
And if anyone forces you to go one mile,
go with him two miles.
Give to the one who begs from you,
and do not refuse the one
who would borrow from you.”

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to those of old,
‘You shall not murder; and
whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’
But I say to you that
everyone who is angry with his brother
will be liable to judgment;
whoever insults his brother
will be liable to the council;
and whoever says, ‘You fool!’
will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Matthew 12:34-37

“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 5:23-24

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar
and there remember that your brother
has something against you,
leave your gift there before the altar and go.
First be reconciled to your brother,
and then come and offer your gift.”

Genesis 4:6-7

The LORD said to Cain,
“Why are you angry,
and why has your face fallen?
If you do well, will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well,
sin is crouching at the door.
Its desire is for you,
but you must rule over it.”

Genesis 49:5-7

“Simeon and Levi are brothers;
weapons of violence are their swords.
Let my soul come not into their council;
O my glory, be not joined to their company.
For in their anger they killed men,
and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen.

“Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce,
and their wrath, for it is cruel!
I will divide them in Jacob
and scatter them in Israel.”

1 Samuel 25:12

So David's young men turned away
and came back and told him all this.
And David said to his men,
“Every man strap on his sword!”

Now David had said,
“Surely in vain have I guarded
all that this fellow has in the wilderness,
so that nothing was missed
of all that belonged to him,
and he has returned me evil for good.

“God do so to the enemies of David
and more also, if by morning
I leave so much as one male
of all who belong to him.”

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1. David's hot anger (vv. 1-13)
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1 Samuel 26:14-16

But one of the young men told Abigail,
Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers
out of the wilderness to greet our master,
and he railed at them.

Yet the men were very good to us,
and we suffered no harm,
and we did not miss anything
when we were in the fields,
as long as we went with them.

They were a wall to us both by night and by day,
all the while we were with them
keeping the sheep."

1 Samuel 26:17

“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.”

1 Samuel 26:18-19

Then Abigail made haste and took
two hundred loaves and two skins of wine
and five sheep already prepared
and five seahs of parched grain
and a hundred clusters of raisins
and two hundred cakes of figs,
and laid them on donkeys.

And she said to her young men,
“Go on before me;
behold, I come after you.”

But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

1 Samuel 26:20

And as she rode on the donkey
and came down under cover of the mountain,
behold, David and his men
came down toward her,
and she met them.

Now David had said,

“Surely in vain have I guarded
all that this fellow has in the wilderness,
so that nothing was missed
of all that belonged to him,
and he has returned me evil for good.

“God do so to the enemies of David
and more also, if by morning
I leave so much as one male
of all who belong to him.”

1 Samuel 26:23-24

When Abigail saw David,
she hurried and got down from the donkey
and fell before David on her face
and bowed to the ground.

She fell at his feet and said,
“On me alone, my lord, be the guilt.
Please let your servant speak in your ears,
and hear the words of your servant.”

1 Samuel 26:25-26

“Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow,
Nabal, for as his name is, so is he.
Nabal is his name, and folly is with him.
But I your servant did not see
the young men of my lord, whom you sent.
Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives,
and as your soul lives,
because the LORD has restrained you
from bloodguilt and from saving
with your own hand, now then
let your enemies and those who seek to do evil
to my lord be as Nabal.”

“And now let this present
that your servant has brought to my lord
be given to the young men who follow my lord.

“Please forgive the trespass of your servant.
For the LORD will certainly make my lord
a sure house, because my lord
is fighting the battles of the LORD,
and evil shall not be found in you
so long as you live.”

1 Samuel 26:29

“If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life,
the life of my lord shall be bound
in the bundle of the living
in the care of the LORD your God.

“And the lives of your enemies
he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling.”

1 Samuel 26:30-31

“And when the LORD has done to my lord
according to all the good that he has spoken
concerning you and has appointed you
prince over Israel,
my lord shall have no cause of grief
or pangs of conscience
for having shed blood without cause
or for my lord taking vengeance himself.

“And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord,
then remember your servant.”

Deuteronomy 32:35-36

Vengeance is mine, and recompense,
for the time when their foot shall slip;
for the day of their calamity is at hand,
and their doom comes swiftly.

For the LORD will vindicate his people
and have compassion on his servants,
when he sees that their power is gone
and there is none remaining, bond or free.

1 Samuel 26:23-24

When Abigail saw David,
she hurried and got down from the donkey
and fell before David on her face
and bowed to the ground.

She fell at his feet and said,
“On me alone, my lord, be the guilt.
Please let your servant speak in your ears,
and hear the words of your servant.”

“Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow,
Nabal, for as his name is, so is he.

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But I your servant did not see
the young men of my lord, whom you sent.
Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives,
and as your soul lives,
because the LORD has restrained you
from bloodguilt and from saving
with your own hand, now then
let your enemies and those who seek to do evil
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1 Samuel 26:32-34

And David said to Abigail,
“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who sent you this day to meet me!
Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you,
who have kept me this day from bloodguilt
and from avenging myself with my own hand!

“For as surely as the LORD the God of Israel lives,
who has restrained me from hurting you,
unless you had hurried and come to meet me,
truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal
so much as one male.”

1 Samuel 26:35

Then David received from her hand
what she had brought him.

And he said to her,
“Go up in peace to your house.
See, I have obeyed your voice,
and I have granted your petition.”

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1 Samuel 26:36

And Abigail came to Nabal, and behold,
he was holding a feast in his house,
like the feast of a king.

And Nabal's heart was merry within him,
for he was very drunk.

So she told him nothing at all
until the morning light.

1 Samuel 26:37-38

In the morning,
when the wine had gone out of Nabal,
his wife told him these things,
and his heart died within him,
and he became as a stone.

And about ten days later
the LORD struck Nabal,
and he died.

1 Samuel 26:39

When David heard that Nabal was dead,
he said, “Blessed be the LORD
who has avenged the insult I received
at the hand of Nabal,
and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing.
The LORD has returned the evil of Nabal
on his own head.”

Then David sent and spoke to Abigail,
to take her as his wife.

1 Samuel 26:40-41

When the servants of David came
to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her,
“David has sent us to you
to take you to him as his wife.”

And she rose and bowed with her face
to the ground and said,
“Behold, your handmaid is a servant
to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.”

1 Samuel 26:42

And Abigail hurried and rose
and mounted a donkey,
and her five young women attended her.
She followed the messengers of David
and became his wife.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry and do not sin.

Do not let the sun go down on your anger,
and give no opportunity to the devil.

James 1:19-20

Know this, my beloved brothers:
let every person be quick to hear,
slow to speak, slow to anger;
for the anger of man does not produce
the righteousness that God requires.

1 Samuel 25:21-22

Now David had said,

“He has returned me evil for good!

God do so to the enemies of David and more also,
if by morning I leave so much as one male
of all who belong to him.”

Romans 12:17-21

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought
to do what is honorable in the sight of all.
If possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,
but leave it to the wrath of God,
for it is written, “Vengeance is mine,
I will repay, says the Lord.”

To the contrary,
“if your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink;
for by so doing you will heap burning coals
on his head.”

Do not be overcome by evil,
but overcome evil with good.

Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience, bearing with one another
and, if one has a complaint against another,
forgiving each other;
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together
in perfect harmony.