

Text: 1 Samuel 25:23-42

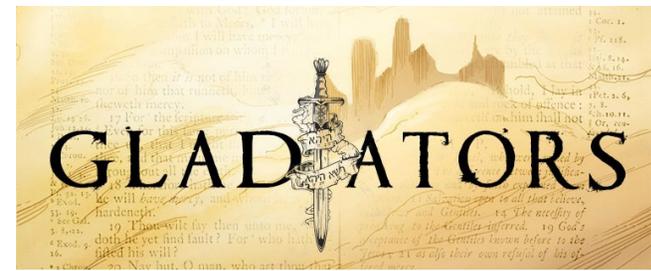
The Plain Truth

Humility disarms our _____ and compassion turns _____ into _____.

Biblical submission

- 1) Submission to _____
- 2) Submission to _____
- 3) Submission to _____

June 25 & 26, 2016



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June 25 & 26, 2016

Gladiators

Personal Study • Week of June 26

Although David is known as a “man after God’s own heart” and shows great restraint more than once regarding Saul, he was not perfect. David has a temper.

Once when he and his men are hiding from Saul in the wilderness, they befriend and become like a “wall of protection” to some nearby shepherds working for a wealthy man, Nabal. At sheep-shearing time, David respectfully sends ten young men to ask Nabal if they can share in the celebration. Instead of being generous, Nabal screams insults at David’s men: “Who is this fellow David? Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters. Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I’ve slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?”

David is told of Nabal’s outrageous reaction and begins to boil with anger. At once, David and his men strap on swords to take revenge, but God restrains David through Abigail, Nabal’s wife—strong, wise, beautiful, and ready to risk her life for others.

Read 1 Samuel 25:23-42

1. The encounter with Nabal happens when David is hunted down by Saul. Though forced to live like a fugitive, David does not touch “the Lord’s anointed” (see 1 Kings 24:3-7, 26:2-11). But now, in a weak moment, he is ready to take out Nabal. Why must we leave vengeance in God’s hands?

The apostle Paul quotes Deuteronomy 32:35 when he says: “Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the LORD” (Romans 12:19). Instead of seeking revenge, what attitude are we to have towards our enemies, according to Romans 12:2-21 and Matthew 5:43-48?

Like David, we are not perfect and in a weak moment we too may plan an attack on the foolish “Nabal’s” in our life. Notice, although David was living like a fugitive, both Nabal and Abigail knew of David’s fame and anointing (see 1 Samuel 25:10, 26-31). But while Nabal scorned the “son of Jesse” Abigail understood the Lord’s plan and purpose over David – to one day shepherd the nation of Israel. As a result, Nabal showed great disdain for the Lord by rejecting His anointed, while Abigail respectfully spoke truth and courageously risked her life for God’s greater purpose.

2. Like Nabal, the people of Jesus’ day showed great disdain for the Lord’s anointed by rejecting the Son of God and refusing their opportunity for salvation (Luke 19:41-44). What is your attitude towards the Lord’s anointed leaders—pastors, teachers, persons in positions of authority?

The ultimate foolishness is rejecting Christ. Have you accepted your opportunity for salvation by inviting the Lord’s anointed into your heart?

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