

FROM THE HEART OF GOD'S WOMAN

Helping women manage their time, so they have more time,
to invest that time, in the things of God.

Volume 4, April 2010

Balancing Blessings:

By being Gracious

Monthly E-Series:

Abigail

Obtaining Order:

Walking in Graciousness

Balancing Blessings... *by being Gracious*

The Old Testament tells a story about a woman name Abigail. She was a classic example of a gracious woman. One Scripture tells us that she was “of good understanding and beautiful” (1 Samuel 25:3). But Abigail was married to a foolish man, Nabal, who made the mistake of insulting King David—the one who killed the giant Goliath and annihilated the Philistines, remember? When David and his soldiers were on their way to repay Nabal for his evil deeds, Abigail interceded and became her husband’s *strong ezer (helper)*. Let us take a closer look at our gracious woman, Abigail.

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness” (Proverbs 31:26).

From the Heart of God's Woman

Abigail

Abigail and Nabal, to most they were the beauty and the beast of the Old Testament, a gracious woman with a foolish man. Society might describe that type of union like this: “A god fearing, tender-hearted, kind, and gracious woman hooking up with the abuser, the drunkard, the player, the master manipulator.” Please do not misunderstand, it could also happen the other way around.

Talk to an Abigail or others involved with a foolish spouse, they will tell you how charming he was or how gracious she was when they dated, and then make excuses for him or her after the union.

Because of Abigail's strong desire to love and be loved she tolerated him, and even learned to adjust to him—faults and all—even though the effects of his behavior took its toll on her physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

Her acceptance of Nabal probably came at a cost—mostly likely during one of the most darkest periods of their relationship. We'll never understand it completely, but a woman in her shoes understands her man for who he is. Whether it's the little boy who wasn't raised with a father around, who doesn't understand that marriage is a union between a man and a woman—not a dictatorship. Or whether it's the young man who learned to survive the streets by out witting people, currently manipulates his wife, boss, friends, and

coworkers. Whatever his issues are, she gets him, and continues to love him the same, if not more.

However, her love for him does not mean she doesn't have boundaries. Sooner or later, even for our Abigail, enough is enough.

But wait, what woke our Abigail up? What made an Abigail see a Nabal for who he truly is? If we were to follow the illuminating path we would discover the switch that triggered the breakthrough or break-up.

For one Abigail it was the moment she caught him in the arms of another woman. For another Abigail it was when his fist connected with her eye and sent her sailing through the air, until gravity took over. For still another Abigail it was the test that revealed the unspeakable.

For our Abigail in first Samuel, it went far beyond having to submit to a stubborn and foolish man, who refused to seek the heart of God in living in love and understanding with her. Her husband's sheer disregard for her and others put lives on the line, which left her no alternative but to turn her husband in and then turn him over to God. We read...

A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy....His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings....

David had just said, "It's been use-

less—all my watching over this fellow's property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!"

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground.... "Please forgive your servant's offense.... When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself...."

David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day" (1 Samuel 25:2a, 3, 21-23, 28a, 30-31a, 32-33a).

Like Abigail sometimes you have to realize when a relationship is jeopardizing lives. Then you must take a stand, if not for yourself, for those who can not stand for themselves.

When Abigail left the ranch house it was to save her household. Should the entire household parish for one man's foolishness?

Written by: Sandra Miller

A Gracious Woman...

Acts out of wisdom

Speaks the truth in love

Thinks of others

is proactive

IS LOYAL

is courageous fears God

IS FAITHFUL AND OBEDIENT

is compassionate

Promotes Peace

Obtaining Order...

Your Challenge to *Walk in graciousness*

Abigail's story provides a wonderful example of a woman who welcomed wisdom and discernment to help her in her relationship with her husband. She also did not hesitate to act upon wisdom's call to do what needed to be done or to say what needed to be said.

Abigail was able to act out of wisdom; and speaks the truth in love, because her heart was in the right place. Her desire was to honor David, serve her husband, and submit to God.