

CROWN graphic w/email

Sacred Assembly graphic

**Real world graphic** (*feel free to change as needed to show up good ... just ensure same content/meaning is conveyed*)

<https://th.bing.com/th/id/R.97a5eea9b11a2f220d9c9e4183c76a13?rik=V2GOZZUEEtzGmA&riu=http%3a%2f%2fwww.wilsongrowthpartners.com%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2017%2f02%2fRealFacebook-1030x538.jpg&ehk=iMISHzHzJ1j%2be3hIY8%2fRBEoAQmgNNcTs%2fvjRYswVWV8%3d&risl=&pid=ImgRaw&r=0>

### **I Samuel 24:20, 22**

“Now I know for certain **you will be king**, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand ...” ... Then Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

### **I Samuel 25:1**

Samuel **died**, and all Israel assembled to mourn for him, and they buried him by his home in Ramah. David then went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

### **Overarching Truth:**

**We cannot expect a broken world with broken people to satisfy us.**

### **I Samuel 25:2-3**

A man in Maon had a business in Carmel; he was a very rich man with three thousand sheep and one thousand goats and was shearing his sheep in Carmel. <sup>3</sup> The man's name was **Nabal**, and his wife's name, **Abigail**. The woman was intelligent and beautiful, but the man, a Calebite, was harsh and evil in his dealings.

### **I Samuel 25:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep, <sup>5</sup> so David sent ten young men instructing them, “Go up to Carmel, and when you come to Nabal, greet him in my name. <sup>6</sup> Then say this: ‘Long life to you, and peace to you, peace to your family, and peace to all that is yours. <sup>7</sup> I hear that you are shearing. When your shepherds were with us, we did not harass them, and nothing of theirs was missing the whole time they were in Carmel. <sup>8</sup> Ask your young men, and they will tell you. So let my young men find favor with you, for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have on hand to your servants and to your son David.’” <sup>9</sup> David's young men went and said all these things to Nabal on David's behalf, and they waited.

## I Samuel 25:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Nabal asked them, “**Who is David?** Who is Jesse’s son? Many slaves these days are running away from their masters. <sup>11</sup> Am I supposed to take my bread, my water, and my meat that I butchered for my shearers and give them to these men? I don’t know where they are from.” David’s young men retraced their steps. When they returned to him, they reported all these words.

Real world graphic (same as the one used above)

## I Samuel 25:12-13

<sup>13</sup> He said to his men, “All of you, **put on your swords!**” So each man put on his sword, and David also put on his sword. About four hundred men followed David while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

## Faith □ Flesh

### **Flesh:**

***any human action taken, attitude adopted, or achievement made without dependence upon God and without an eye toward hallowing of His Name***

*{same slide ... come up one line/sentence at a time}*

**David has a problem.**

**The problem is NOT Nabal.**

**David’s problem is David (his flesh).**

*{same slide ... come up one point at a time}*

### **What Causes the “Faith to Flesh” Switch?**

- **Blind spots** (lack of self-awareness)
- **Secular – Sacred** division (compartmentalization)
- Ignoring clear **commands** of God and/or **godly counsel**

*{one slide; all together}*

### **Big Question:**

**Where is God?**

**How does God work “in the real world”?**

*{come up one at a time; same slide ...}*

**God does not keep the “Nabal’s” away from us.**

**But ... He has a way to deliver us from the evil WITHIN us.**

**God will not make us ... but He will make a way for us!**

## Titus 2:11-14

For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to **deny** godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, <sup>13</sup> while we **wait** for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession, **eager to do good works**.

**God will not make us ... but He will **make a way** for us to stay in **close fellowship** with Him.**

### **I Samuel 25:14-17**

**One of Nabal's young men** informed **Abigail**, Nabal's wife, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed at them. <sup>15</sup> The men treated us very well. When we were in the field, we weren't harassed and nothing of ours was missing the whole time we were living among them. <sup>16</sup> They were a wall around us, both day and night, the entire time we were with them herding the sheep. <sup>17</sup> Now **consider carefully** what you should do, because there is certain to be trouble for our master and his entire family. He is such a worthless fool nobody can talk to him!"

*{same slide; one at a time}*

### **4 Ways God Makes a Way:**

1) The **workings** of God's **providence** (God's provision).

### **I Samuel 25:18-22**

Abigail hurried, taking two hundred loaves of bread, two clay jars of wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. <sup>19</sup> Then she said to her male servants, "Go ahead of me. I will be right behind you." But she did not tell her husband, Nabal.

<sup>20</sup> As she rode the donkey down a mountain pass hidden from view, she saw David and his men coming toward her and **met them**.

### **I Samuel 25:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> David had just said, "I guarded everything that belonged to this man in the wilderness for nothing. He was not missing anything, yet he paid me back **evil for good**. <sup>22</sup> **May God** punish me and do so severely if I let any of his males survive until morning."

### **Romans 12:21**

Don't let evil conquer you, but **conquer evil by doing good**.

## **I Samuel 25:23-31**

When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off the donkey and knelt down with her face to the ground and paid homage to David. <sup>24</sup> She knelt at his feet and said, “The guilt is mine, my lord, but please let your servant **speak to you directly**. Listen to the **words** of your servant. <sup>25</sup> My lord should pay no attention to this worthless fool Nabal, for he lives up to his name: His name means ‘stupid,’ and stupidity is all he knows. I, your servant, didn’t see my lord’s young men whom you sent. <sup>26</sup> Now my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and as you yourself live—it is **the Lord who kept you from participating in bloodshed** and avenging yourself by your own hand—may your enemies and those who intend to harm my lord be like Nabal. <sup>27</sup> Let this gift your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. <sup>28</sup> Please **forgive** your servant’s offense, for the **Lord is certain** to make a lasting dynasty for my lord because he fights the Lord’s battles. Throughout your life, **may evil not be found in you**. <sup>29</sup> “Someone is pursuing you and intends to take your life. My lord’s life is tucked safely in the place where **the Lord your God** protects the living, but He is flinging away your enemies’ lives like stones from a sling. <sup>30</sup> When **the Lord** does for my lord all the good **He promised** you and appoints you ruler over Israel, <sup>31</sup> there will not be remorse or a troubled conscience for my lord because of needless bloodshed or my lord’s revenge. And **when the Lord does good** things for my lord, may you remember me your servant.”

## **4 Ways God Makes a Way:**

2) The **people** that God puts in our path

### **Galatians 6:10**

... as we have opportunity, let us **work for the good** of all, especially for those who belong to the **household of faith**.

### **Romans 12:10**

Love one another deeply as **brothers and sisters**. Take the lead in **honoring one another**.

People are part of our **perseverance** in the faith.

SMALL GROUPs graphic (if available)

**A person who only affirms and sympathizes with us is not loving but indifferent ... to the life God has for us.**

## **4 Ways God Makes a Way:**

3) The **warnings** that God puts before us.

*{same slide; one at a time}*

**The warnings exist because the dangers are real.  
Dismissing the warning does not remove the danger.**

#### **4 Ways God Makes a Way:**

4) The **promises** that God makes to us.

#### **Repeated Promises to David:**

- Ch. 23 □ Jonathan
- Ch. 24 □ Saul
- Ch. 25 □ Abigail

**{1+2+3+4} □ The abundance of God's grace**

**More grace in God than sin in us.**

**More grace from God to keep us close to Him.**

**God will not make us ... but He will make a way for us to stay in close fellowship with Him.**

#### **I Samuel 25:32-35**

Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be **the Lord God** of Israel, **who sent you** to meet me today! <sup>33</sup> May your discernment be blessed, and may you be blessed. Today **you kept me from participating** in bloodshed and avenging myself by my own hand. <sup>34</sup> Otherwise, as surely as the Lord God of Israel lives, who prevented me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, Nabal wouldn't have had any males left by morning light." <sup>35</sup> Then David accepted what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. See, **I have heard** what you said and have granted your request."

*{One slide ... come up one point at a time}*

#### **What Are We Missing?**

- A) **Awareness** of God's ways
- B) **Openness** to correction
- C) **Willingness** to be used by God (~Abigail)

*{all together; one slide}*

**I Samuel 25:36-39**

- Nabal dies
- David marries Abigail

David learns (or relearns) he does not have to be in control because God is.

God takes negatives in the “real world” and turns them into positives for His people.

**3 Questions for Us:**

- 1) What are we doing with God’s promises & warnings?

**3 Questions for Us:**

- 2) Are we open to being corrected ... and in a position to receive it?

**3 Questions for Us:**

- 3) Are we willing to be the Church to one another?

**Colossians 3:16**

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel **each other** with all the wisdom He gives.

**Ephesians 4:15**

... we will **speak the truth in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

**Isaiah 50:4**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are instructed to know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens me each morning; He awakens my ear to listen like those being instructed.