

Sunday 2nd March 2025
The Generous Heart 3: Know
1 Samuel 25

Welcome

- What small thing frustrates you the most?

Word

This week our focus is on Psalm 100: 3 and the word 'know':

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.' (Psalm 100:3).

1. What is your response to this verse above?
2. How could our understanding of this verse impact our view on giving?
3. What can you do to get to know God more?

Our main Bible reading this week focusses on 3 characters who can teach us about our attitude to giving and motivation for service. Nabal, David and Abigail.

David is at a pivotal point in his leadership. Samuel, the one who anointed him to be king, had just died, and David was in exile. King Saul continued to pursue David, consumed by jealousy and a mistaken belief that David wished him harm. Having recently had the opportunity to kill Saul, David had let him go free, keeping his anger under control, and following the will of God. In the story we will explore today, David had less control over his emotions.

Foolish Landowner - Nabal

Read 1 Samuel 25:1-11

6. What was Nabal's attitude to his wealth and how did it impact his willingness to respond positively to David's request?
7. What are the modern-day equivalents to this kind of response?
8. Do you think it is more or less difficult to be generous in our giving if we have more to give? Discuss your reasons.
9. Do you sometimes think – I've earned it, I deserve to spend it/ keep it?
10. In what ways was Nabal disrespectful to those God had placed in authority?
11. Summarise Nabal's understanding of Psalm 100:3.

Frustrated leader - David

Read 1 Samuel 25:12-22

12. Is it OK to give, expecting something in return? Why/why not?
13. As you think about David's frustrations as a leader, in what ways do you empathise with his poor response in this situation?
14. In what ways, today is it possible to get frustrated by others giving in the church? If you are honest, have you ever been frustrated because you have felt you give a lot and others don't?

In Samuel 24 we discover that David had the opportunity to kill Saul but refused to take it. King Saul had hunted him relentlessly and tried to kill him and yet David controlled his emotions and walked away.

15. Why do you think David's response to Nabal was so different from his response to King Saul?

Wise Woman – Abigail

Read 1 Samuel 25: 32-35

16. Thinking about the culture of the time, what does it say about Abigail's character that the servants brought their concerns to her?
17. Why do you suppose that Abigail chose to give so generously?
18. What kind of difficulties can arise within partnerships where one person has a different attitude to giving from the other? (Hopefully they are not on the same scale as Abigail and Nabal!). What solutions would you suggest for couples to work around issues like this?
19. Do you think it was OK for Abigail to keep her abundant giving a secret from her husband? If so, why/why not?
20. What was David's response to Abigail in 1 Samuel 25:32-34?
21. Summarise Abigail's understanding of Psalm 100:3.

When it comes to giving our time, gifts, talents, and finances we can all demonstrate the characteristics of Nabal, David and Abigail:

- ❖ We have moments where we see our wealth as our own and struggle to give generously – like Nabal.
- ❖ We have moments where we are overwhelmed with frustration as others sit back and give little – like David
- ❖ We have moments where we recognise God's blessings in our life and give abundantly to others. In those moment we see that it is God who gave us everything in the first place – like Abigail.

Worship & Witness

- In what way do you relate to the foolishness of Nabal, the frustration of David or the wisdom of Abigail?
- What have you discovered about giving during this session? It might be a fresh understanding of this Scripture, a verse to ponder or a life lesson to apply.

Prayer

Father, forgive us for the times when we forget that you are the one who provides for us. Forgive us for the moments when we want to keep hold of our wealth and refuse to share it with others. Thank you for your faithfulness and wisdom. Thank you that we are yours. May we always remember that, as we live for you each day. Amen.

Optional Extra

Read the following Bible verses:

What is the key message of each verse and how does it deepen your understanding of the importance of giving to God?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Malachi 3:10

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Matthew 6:1-4

Mark 12:41-44

Proverbs 3:27

Hebrews 13:16

John 3:16

The
**Generous
Heart**



**SHOUT WORSHIP
KNOW ENTER LOVE**

Spotify Playlist to
accompany this series

