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SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 24 – A Promise

THURSDAY

OPEN

Yep, you did it! You married a fool and now you're living with the fool and you are so fed up with that fool and you don't know what to do. But you do know what the Word of God says, ["God hates divorce."] (PARAPHRASE MALACHI 2:16) Does God allow divorce if you're married to a fool? Nope. You say, "Then how am I going to make it?" We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

You married a fool and it's hard isn't it? You're living with a person that is angry. You're living with a person that there is no reasoning with. You're living with a person that is impossible to please. You're living with a person that really doesn't care about you. He or she only cares about himself and what does that have to do with our series of God delivering us in the wilderness? It has a lot to do with it because when it comes to marriage

you're wandering in a wilderness. I know that there are so many unhappy marriages. I know that there are so many people that have just said, "I can't take it. I can't handle it anymore." And they've walked out of their marriage and they didn't have biblical grounds for divorce. They forgot that God hates divorce. God hates what it does to our children because it makes our children so vulnerable. He hates it that we have gone from one to another to another. You say, "You're making me feel bad." I don't want you to feel bad; I just want you to face reality and then I want to show you what you can do about it. Because the whole purpose of this series is that God delivers us in the wilderness and many, many times our marriages are a wilderness. So let's see what God has to say. Now if you'll remember when we began this series, we were looking at the fact in 1 Corinthians that it tells us that the things that happened beforehand were examples for us so that we might learn from them and so that we might understand that [no trial, no temptation, no testing that we're going through is unique to us.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 10:13) It's common to man. You're not the only one that's married a fool. You're not the only one that is having a rough marriage. You're not the only one that is so disappointed because you had such great plans for marriage and now it is a barren, barren wilderness. You feel all alone. You want to run and you want to hide in your cave and you just want to weep, and weep, and weep. And you're worn out and you're weary and God has to have a word for you and He does. Now let's look at it and it's in 1 Samuel chapter 25. Isn't it awesome this study that we're doing on David as we look at God turning from Saul and taking David and anointing him as the next king of Israel? And yet, it has been years and he still hasn't come to the throne. It has been years and Saul who had disobeyed God, who thought he could get away with partial obedience is still ruling. And Saul is pursuing David. We know that Saul just told him that [I know that you're more noble than I am] (PARAPHRASE 1 Samuel 24:17a) and [I know that God has established you as king] (PARAPHRASE 1 Samuel 24:20) and we know that Saul has returned to his home which is in Gibeah.

So we know that he's returned to his home but where does this leave David? It leaves David as we saw in verse 22 of chapter 24, **"...David and his men went up to the stronghold.(1 Samuel 24:22b)"** They're still in the wilderness. It's the stronghold at Engedi. It's a beautiful, beautiful place to visit and to camp out but it is not a good place to live. It's a very barren, barren place and food is hard to come by, I mean you can't just, you know, grow crops around there and so it's very difficult. Well chapter 25, verse 1 it says, **"Then Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah...." (1 Samuel 25:1a)** So Samuel, this great prophet, is dead. 1 Samuel opens up with Samuel. It opens up with the birth of Samuel. Samuel is born and he is the last judge of Israel. He is a prophet in Israel and he is the one that as the last judge then has the privilege of anointing the next king. Although he is grieved because the children of Israel have said, ["We want to be like the other nations. We don't want a judge to rule over us. We don't want God to rule over us. We want to have a king that we can see, that can come in and go out."] (1 Samuel 8:5) And so Samuel warned them about what would happen if they had a king and how the king would recruit their sons and daughters and use them in his court and to accomplish his purposes and to take care of his fields and his homes and to go to battle to fight his wars. So Samuel is quite a prophet, a godly, godly man who had unfortunately ungodly sons and that's part of the reason that the children of Israel said, "We don't want this man. We don't want judges. We don't want Samuel's sons." Now what went wrong? God doesn't tell us. Only He tells us it did go wrong and so now we have Saul is king. Samuel dies and all of Israel mourns for him and they buried him in his house in Ramah. **"...And David arose and went down to the wilderness of Paran." (1 Samuel 25:1b)** He is still in the wilderness. Now what I've done in my Bible and this is what we urge you to do. We urge you to go online to preceptsforlife.com, don't forget it's preceptsforlife.com and download the study guide. And when you download the study guide, you'll have the whole text of this portion of 1 Samuel printed out for you. And then

what you do is you mark the text. And remember you double underline every geographical location that you see because it tells you where something is happening. Well when you do this you can follow him from the wilderness of Engedi and back to the wilderness of Ziph and to all these wildernesses. Well now he goes down to the wilderness of Paran. It's so neat because I just recently passed through the wilderness of Paran and just looked over to the side of of the bus as I was going down to Elath or which is present day Elat which is at the very top of the Red Sea and as we were going down there because we take teaching tours to Israel every year. Don't come with us if you're not interested in the Bible. Don't come with us unless you want in-depth Bible teaching in such a way that you will never forget it and it will change your life. People that have gone with us have told us after the second day, "I could go home today. I got my money's worth." And it really is a first class tour but it has a lot of teaching in a memorable way and it just goes deep. So we saw the wilderness of Paran. It says in verse 2, **"Now there was a man in Maon whose business..." (1 Samuel 25:2a)** remember he was in the wilderness of Maon and all these wildernesses kind of weave together and you know that, don't you? You know that because you've seen like you've gone from one wilderness to another wilderness, to another wilderness, to another wilderness and this wilderness of marriage is just really hard and it's really rough and tough. Okay, what are you going to do? Well let's find out. **"Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and [that] man was very rich, and he had [about] three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel." (1 Samuel 25:2)** So now I underline that. I double underlined it in green because where is he? He's in Carmel. What is he doing? He's shearing his sheep and he has plenty of sheep to shear cause there are 3000 of them. He's taking off the wool 'cause they periodically take off the wool. The wool is valuable. That's what they're going to make their clothing with and other things. And it says, **"(Now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail..." (1 Samuel 25:3a)** Now

let me just stop here and you're going to find out later but because of the way that I began this program Nabal means fool. That's what it means. And the person's name showed the character of that person. It showed what that person was like or it put some event around that person's birth. Now whether his mother named him Nabal and his father named him Nabal which you doubt that they would name him. I just gave birth to a fool because you don't even know. You just gave birth to the child. You don't know it's a fool yet. Or whether this becomes his nickname and this is what he is called. Anyway, this is the only name that we have for him in the Bible. And it says his, **"...name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail..." (1 Samuel 25:3a)** Now that's Abigail but the way they pronounce it over there is Abiygayil and it says, **"...And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance..." (1 Samuel 25:3b)** Wow! All right. What does intelligent mean? The word intelligent here is a Hebrew word that means "good in understanding." You see it's one thing to have knowledge but understanding is being able to take that knowledge and apply it. That's understanding. Understanding means you can look at a situation and you can evaluate it. You just don't look at it and say, "Well, that's the situation." But you look at it and you say, "That's the situation and I understand what it is and I understand "the ends and the outs" of the situation." In Proverbs chapter 13, verse 15 if you'll go there for just a minute. Proverbs chapter 13, verse 15. Now remember these are proverbs of Solomon. Solomon was the wisest man on the face of this earth and this is what he says and I want you to get this and I don't want you to forget it. As a matter of fact, why don't you write it right in the margin right next to verse 3 of 1 Samuel 25 and this is what it says, **"Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard." (Proverbs 13:15)** **"Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard." (Proverbs 13:15)** The next verse says this, **"Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool displays folly. (Proverbs 13:16)** So if Nabal is a fool he's not going to act with knowledge. He's not going to be prudent. Prudent means you know

how to behave in a situation. Now I have to admit that sometimes I have played the fool. Sometimes I have thought You stupid idiot! Why did you do that? I mean, you just want to take yourself and you just want to kick yourself. I mean just kick yourself and kick yourself and kick yourself because you played the fool. And that's what I do mentally. I go around and I go, you fool. You fool, you. That was the dumbest thing you said. And many, many times I can not remember why I said such a dumb thing but I can't forget it. Do you relate? We'll talk about it when I come back.

PART TWO

Came back, didn't you? You wanted to hear about me making a fool of myself. I have. I mean I have opened my mouth and stuck my foot in it and my foot is a very large foot. I mean it's nine and a half to ten. That's a large foot to put in your mouth and that's what I've done and there have been times when I've been in similar circumstances or I've been where I made a fool out of myself when I said something, when I did something dumb or stupid and it comes back to my mind but you know what? I have learned hey, the past is the past and you can't change it. It's over, it's done so what do you do? You move forward and so I've moved forward but I want you to know that I understand about doing foolish things but I'm not a fool. I may have played the fool. I may have done a foolish thing but I'm not a fool. You say, "I want a better definition of a fool." Well, I would suggest that you go through Proverbs because Proverbs describes a fool to you. You know if you read one chapter of Proverbs every single day there are 31 chapters. So you've got one for every day of the month and you will be all the wiser because it's a book of wise sayings so that you know how to live. Well, let's go on. Let's go back to verse 3. It says the woman was intelligent and her name was Abigail. **"...And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but..."**, contrast, **"...the man was harsh and evil in his dealings, and he was a Calebite...."** (1 Samuel 25:3) Calebite means that

he was from the family of Caleb. When you look at this what you want to see is you want to see that God is showing you a contrast. But is a term of contrast. So you have a great woman and you have a lousy man and you have a marriage that obviously is not easy because you've got a great intelligent woman that is beautiful and you've got a man that is as rich as all get out but he is harsh and he is evil in his doings. I mean, evil. You want to mark evil. What I did was I put a black little squiggly around it and then I colored it brown, okay? And it's a squiggly that goes down because that's where evil takes you. It says, "...And [while] **it came about** [that and] **while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.**" (1 Samuel 25:2b) And then verse 3 is in a parenthesis. It says, "**that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.**" (1 Samuel 25:4) Where is he shearing his sheep? You marked it, "in Carmel." Where is David? He's in the wilderness of Paran. Okay? And what is happened to Samuel? Samuel has died. So that has to be grief for David because David loved Samuel. All right now, verse 5, "**So David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, 'Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name; and thus you shall say, 'Have a long life, peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.'**" (1 Samuel 25:5-6) Now I want you to know that David doesn't know what Nabal is like. I mean God has let us know and as He had whoever wrote 1 Samuel, if it was Samuel, whoever wrote it He had it recorded there so that you and I would know that David doesn't know what he's dealing with. He doesn't know about Abigail. All right and so, it says, "**Now I have heard that you have shearers...**" (1 Samuel 25:7a) These ten men are supposed to say this: "**Now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, nor have they missed anything [at] all the days they were in Carmel.**" (1 Samuel 25:7) In other words, we were up there and we were in the fields with your shepherds and as they were out there in that field, I want you to know that we took care of them. Not one was missing. Not one was missing and we protected them and

why is he saying this? He says verse 8, **“Ask your young men and they will tell you....” (1 Samuel 25:8a)** There are eye witnesses to how we protected and cared for you. **“...Therefore....,”** therefore, term of conclusion, **“...let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day....” (1 Samuel 25:8a)** I mean shearing the sheep was a party. It was a party. I mean they got together. It was like the harvest. The wool had grown and they were celebrating and they were having a party and he says, **“Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for [they] have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.” (1 Samuel 25:8)** In other words I’m acting like a son to you. I have protected you and what I’m asking now is bless my boys and bless me. You’re celebrating this feast. You’re eating, you’re drinking, you know, you’re a man of wealth, share with us. Be hospitable to us. Now, that’s what’s in that land. If you ever go to Israel, if you ever go with us, I hope if you go, you go with us. But if you go to Israel and we don’t take too large a group because I want to minister with you personally and I’m with you all day long and I mean, we just have a great time. But if you ever go you’re going to find that my Jewish friends, I mean when I met them they were inviting me into their home and I thought You don’t mean this. But they did mean it and they pursued me until they did. When you get to the Middle East the people there, the Jews and the Arabs are given to hospitality. When I go over to one of the hotels, Sammy, whose an Arab, is always begging me, “Kay, when are you going to come to my house? When are you going to have dinner with my family?” So the invitations are there all the time. It’s an accepted rule. So this is what David expects. Verse 9, **“When David’s young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David’s name; [and] then they waited. But Nabal answered David’s servants, and said, ‘Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse?...’” (1 SAMUEL 25:9-10a)** Remember this is a fool. Remember he lacks knowledge. Remember he’s not gracious. Remember life is all about him

and not about anyone else. And he says, “...**There are many servants today who are...breaking away from [their] master.**” (1 Samuel 25:10b) Who is David? (*laughs*) Who is he? There are many servants breaking away from their master. “**Shall I then take my bread and my water....**” (1 Samuel 25:11a) And water was a commodity. It had to come out of the wells in those wildernesses. He says, “...**And my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give [them] to men whose origin I do not know?**” (1 SAMUEL 25:11b) Did you notice the *my*? Shall I...take *my* meat? Shall I take *my* water? Shall I take *my* food? Shall I take *my* bread and give them to these men whose origin, I don’t even know where you guys came from? I don’t know about you. Maybe if they were prominent, he would have done it. He didn’t realize what it was doing. I mean, he was turning down the future king of Israel. You know what? You never know who you’re entertaining. Hebrews chapter 13 says [we entertain angels unaware.] (PARAPHRASE Hebrews 13:2b) “**So David’s young men retraced their way and went back; and they came and told him...all these words. [And] David said to [them,] ‘Each [one] of you gird [your] sword.’ [And] each man girded ...his sword. And David also girded on his sword, and about four hundred men went up [with] David while two hundred stayed with the baggage.**” (1 SAMUEL 25:12-13) Stayed with all their camping stuff, their tents and all of those things and their families. So there are going 400 men with 400 swords and David at the head of him girding his own sword. You know what’s wrong with David. Shweh! He’s had it up to here. He is angry and it says, “**But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, saying, ‘Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, and he scorned them.’**” (1 SAMUEL 25:14) That’s a fool. What’s going to happen? Oh boy, are you going to be surprised when we study this in the next program.