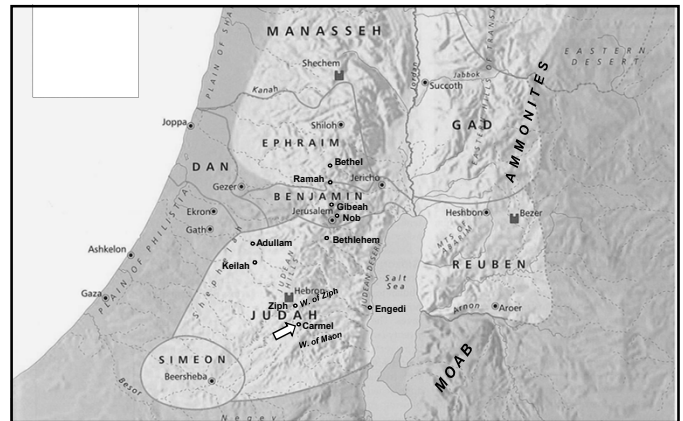


## In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL



1 Samuel 25:1-44

## Vengeance is the Lord's

### Setting ("the crisis")

#### 1. Nabal's Offense

- he broke the expected social convention by refusing hospitality to those who had been generous to him
- he insulted David by not recognizing him and implying that he was runaway slave

### Setting ("the crisis")

#### 2. David's Response

- while his offense was understandable, his plan for revenge was unjustifiable
- David was in danger of becoming "Saul-like"

## Vengeance is the Lord's

#### 1. An Instrument of Grace

- the Lord used Abigail to restrain David from shedding blood out of revenge
- she appealed to the Lord's promises and to David's conscience to keep him from sinning

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

(Galatians 6:1)

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

(Hebrews 3:13)

## Vengeance is the Lord's

### 2. A Gracious Response

- David perceived in Abigail's actions the Lord's timely restraint
- David was grateful that the Lord/Abigail kept him from sinful vengeance

## Vengeance is the Lord's

Q: Are you approachable? How do you respond when lovingly confronted?

## Vengeance is the Lord's

### 3. A Just Vengeance

- David was shown that vengeance belongs to Yahweh alone
- Nabal's death was a temporal example of the Lord's ultimate just vengeance

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup>Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup>Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

<sup>4</sup>Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. <sup>5</sup>You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup>You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man*; he does not resist you.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

<sup>8</sup>You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

(James 5:1-8)