

## **Read 1 Samuel 25**

Before this all began, we had plans didn't we?!

One of those plans was to focus on just some of the great women of the Old Testament. Well, this was the plan and I am glad to say, this is what we are doing in this instance!

This week we consider Abigail. She appears in 1 Samuel 25 as the "clever and beautiful" wife of the oafish Nabal. David and his army camp out on the land belonging to Nabal and whilst David feels he and his people do the right thing, Nabal disrespects David and then they are set for a bloody encounter. Cue Abigail. Unbeknown to her husband, she takes gifts and greetings to David and all is well, bloodshed is avoided.

Abigail acts smartly and speedily to avoid a serious problem getting out of hand. She realises that in order to avert many people dying she needs to be creative and cooperate, rather than taking the path of destructive ignorance that Nabal takes.

Do I need to spell it out that this is what we need to be doing now in this time of great danger? We need to be demonstrating the kind of wisdom that Abigail shows.

"Blessed be your good sense" says David. She is willing to cooperate, to give, to build bridges. Now is a time for us, even in the smallest of ways, to be showing such "good sense". As the people of God we need to be more like Abigail and less like Nabal!

God bless.

*Gerard*

## **Prayer**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for Erdington, for the UK, for the world to be set free from the grip of Covid-19. We pray against Covid-19

We pray for healing for all who have the Coronavirus.

We pray in Jesus' name.

We pray for families and friends, separated from loved ones in hospital and for those who have already lost loved ones to Covid-19.

We pray in Jesus' name.

We pray for all of our key workers, we pray that you would surround them with your love, that you would protect them.

We pray in Jesus' name.

We pray for all those working on finding ways of defeating the virus.

We pray for our leaders and for all of us that we would show "good sense".

We pray, in Jesus' name, for our communities: for those who are really struggling to get through this.

We pray for all our sisters and brothers, worldwide who are not blessed with the resources and facilities we have.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.