

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” - Psalm 119:105

August 13, 2006

Nabal's Family: Married to a Fool

Frank Himmel

When David killed Goliath he became a national hero. King Saul quickly grew jealous and suspicious of him. Things got so out of hand that he made several attempts on David's life.

David and his men were forced to take refuge in the wilderness of southern Judah. There, unbeknownst to Saul, they were of great service to the kingdom by protecting its citizens and conducting raids against Israel's enemies. One of the beneficiaries of David's valor was a wealthy herdsman named Nabal (**1 Sam. 25**).

The season came for shearing the sheep. This was a festive time; sheep shearing was to shepherds what harvest was to farmers. It was extensively celebrated (cf. **2 Sam. 13:23-28**). David sent ten of his men to Nabal, requesting that he share some of his prosperity with them in light of the service they had rendered.

Although Nabal was rich, he was also harsh and evil in his dealings. He responded scornfully, saying he would give nothing. He tried to make himself look better by likening David to a runaway slave. David was outraged. He armed about four hundred of his men and set out to annihilate Nabal and his house.

One of Nabal's men overheard the conversation and reported it to Abigail, Nabal's wife. He assured her that David's request was merited and warned that Nabal's unreasonableness had put the entire family in jeopardy.

Abigail quickly gathered a large quantity of provisions and went out to intervene. She accepted responsibility for not seeing David's messengers, asked David to now accept her gift, and pled with him to reconsider what he was about to do. She acknowledged that Nabal was a worthless man; his very name meant "fool." (I have always wondered when and where he got that name!) She reasoned that when David became king, he should not have to look back at this incident with any regrets.

David was most impressed by Abigail's wisdom and courage. He thanked her and relented. And when Nabal died a few days later after hearing of what almost happened, David married Abigail.

What is the lesson? Though hopefully he will not be as bad as Nabal, sometimes a spouse turns out to be less, perhaps far less, than we expected. The impact is undeniable. Significant character deficiencies affect families in very real ways. What does one do in such circumstances? Learn from Abigail. She did not abandon Nabal; divorce is not an option. Neither did she allow herself to deteriorate to his level. Instead, she maintained her godly outlook, and humbly and prudently did her best to be an influence for good and minimize the damage he caused.

Can You Rekindle the Fire?

Jim Deason

Her words pierced him to the bone. “I don’t love you anymore. Of all the places in this world, I would rather be anyplace else but here with you. I’ll stay with you for the sake of image but we are through. I feel nothing for you anymore.” Frightening words, aren’t they? Yet the story is all too real. It is the story of young, exciting, romantic love turned cold. Anger and argument has been replaced by indifferent silence. It doesn’t take Solomon’s wisdom to determine that this couple is in trouble.

Is it possible for a dead love to be resurrected? If the flames of passion have gone out, can they ever be rekindled? Can a person force herself to love someone if she doesn’t feel anything? I believe in resurrections, but certain conditions have to prevail in order for them to take place. It begins with a proper and practical definition of love.

Almost 33 years ago Art Thomas reminded me, “Jim, the Bible nowhere says you are to many the one you love. The Bible does say that you are love the one you many.” That may sound a little unromantic but it is certainly true. “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*” (Eph. 5:25). “*Older women... encourage the young women to love their husbands*” (Tit. 2:3,4).

Genuine love is an act of the will. It’s more than just an emotion of the heart. The best of romance is the *result* of a right relationship, not the *basis* of it. Our world considers love an involuntary emotion; it’s something you fall into as you might fall into a ditch. But this is infatuation and it doesn’t last. The more your marriage is built on infatuation, the more precarious it will be.

True love is deeper and more stable than infatuation. It is an act of the will which gives itself to another regardless and sometimes in spite of feelings. It is a decision to do the right thing before God – that which is in the best interest of the relationship – rather than an uncontrollable emotion.

Romantic love is important in a marriage relationship. It is beautiful and exciting. But sometimes life happens to relationships. Our vow to stick with one another “for better or worse seems to be weighted toward the “worst” and it hurts. True love – committed, sacrificial love —helps us weather the storm. The presence of that kind of love can rekindle the fires of romance. And, ah, how sweet can be the resurrection.

“I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” – Psalm 91:2

Family News

Connie Cobern still has some pain in her foot, but is getting better.

Kendall Gaw has been doing well and getting better this past week. She should have a follow up appointment this week.

Ken and Rhonda have a new granddaughter! **Sara JoAnn Hull** was born Wednesday. She was 20 inches long and weighed 7 lbs 7 ozs. Both mother and baby are healthy, happy and home.

Sandra Hunt had an electrocardiogram on Thursday. It did not show any new problems. She is scheduled for an echocardiogram this Tuesday. She is scheduled to see a neurosurgeon on the 30th.

Jennifer Lindzy, Fran Pickens' granddaughter, completed chemotherapy four weeks ago. Tests show the cancer is in remission. She finally went home this past week! She is now eating and getting better day-by-day. Some of you may know **Haley (Ray) Oglesby** or her husband Matt. She was diagnosed on Monday with ovarian cancer. She is scheduled for surgery tomorrow morning at Baptist Hospital. They are to receive results regarding the stage of the cancer two days later. She is doing well so far.

Cotton Read eyes are not healing correctly. He will have to wait another month before he can get new glasses.

Angela Steely, the White's daughter, has less pain. She has been allowed to do a little more. She returns to the doctor tomorrow.

Donna Vaughan, Derek Hull's mother in law, has finished chemotherapy. A recent scan showed no signs of tumors. She will begin radiation soon.

Ame White had a migraine headache all day yesterday.

Robert Wray is scheduled for left eye surgery this Tuesday.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Connie Cobern** (back in PM); **Ken Hull** (most of week); **Lannings** (back in PM);

Allen Malone (remains in Vietnam).

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).