

Chapter 25

Samuel dieth and is mourned. 3. Daid requesteth, 10. and not obtaining victuals of Nabal, 13. threatneth to kil him. 14. But his wife Abigail prudently preuenteth the reuenge, 18. by fending victuals, 23. and geuing good worde. 37. Al which when Nabal vnderstandeth, he fainteth, and after tenne dayes dieth. 39. Daid marieth Abigail: 43. alfo Achinoam: 44. and his wife Michol is geuen to an other.

And Samuel died, and al Ifrael was gathered together, and they mourned for him, and buried him in his houle in Ramatha. And Daid rifing went downe into the defert of Pharan. ² And there was a certaine man in the wildernes of Maon, and his poffeffion in Carmel, and that man was exceding great: and he had three thoufand sheepe, & a thoufand goates: and it chanced that his flocke was shorne in Carmel. ³ And the name of that man was Nabal: and the name of his wife Abigail. And that woman was very wife and beutiful: moreouer her hufband hard, and very il, and malicious: and he was of the kindred of Caleb. ⁴ When Daid therefore heard in the defert, that Nabal sheared his flocke, ⁵ he fent tenne yong men, and fayd to them: Goe vp into Carmel, and you shal come to Nabal, and shal falute him in my name peaceably. ⁶ And you shal fay: Peace be to my brethren, and to thee, and peace to thy houle, and to al whatfoeuer thou haft be peace. ⁷ I haue heard, that thy shephards which were with vs in the defert did sheare. We haue neuer molested them, neither hath ought beene wanting to them at any time of the flocke, al the time that they were with vs in Carmel. ⁸ Aske thy feruantes, and they wil tel thee. Now therefore let thy feruantes finde grace in thyne eies: for we are come in a good day, whatfoeuer thy hand shal finde, geue thy feruantes, and thy fonne Daid. ⁹ And when Daids feruantes were come, they fpoke to Nabal al thefe wordes in Daids name: and fo held their peace. ¹⁰ But Nabal anfwering the feruantes of Daid, faid: Who is Daid?

and what is the sonne of Ifai? There are seruantes multiplied now a daies which flee from their masters. ¹¹ Shal I then take my breades, and my waters, and the flesh of my cattel, which I haue killed for my shearers, and geue to men whom I know not whence they are? ¹² Therefore the seruantes of Dauid returned by their way, and returning came and told him al the wordes that he had said. ¹³ Then sayd Dauid to his seruantes: Euery man gird him with his sword. And they were euery one girded with their swordes. And Dauid also was girded with his sword: and there folowed Dauid about foure hundred men: moreouer two hundred remayned at the baggage. ¹⁴ But to Abigail the wife of Nabal one of their seruantes told, saying: Behold Dauid hath sent messengers from the desert, to beseech our maister, & he disdaineth them: ¹⁵ These men were good ynough to vs, and not troublesome: neither did euer any thing perish al the time, that we haue conuerst with them in the desert: ¹⁶ they were in feere of a wal to vs both in the day and in the night, al the dayes that we fed the flockes with them. ¹⁷ Wherefore consider, & thinke what thou hast to doe, for ^amalice is accomplished against thy husband, and against thy house, and he is the sonne of Belial, so that no man can speake to him. ¹⁸ Abigail therefore made haist, and tooke two hundred loaves, and two bottels of wine, and fve muttons ready drest, and fve measures of polent, and a hundred branches of rayfens, and two hundred measures of drie figges, and laid them vpon asses: ¹⁹ and said to her seruantes: Goe before me: loe, I wil follow you at your backe: but she told not her husband Nabal. ²⁰ When she therefore had gotten vpon an asse, and came downe to the foote of the mountaine, Dauid and his men came downe meeting her, whom she also mette. ²¹ And Dauid said: In vaine verily haue I preferred al thinges that were this mans in the desert, and there perished nothing of al that pertained to him:

^a Not a malicious mind, such as Saul bore vniustly against Dauid; but punishment is decreed against Nabal, for not only denying a reasonable request, but also for so reprochful an answer.

and he hath rendred me ^{a)}euil for good. ²² Theſe thinges doe God to the enemies of Dauid, and theſe thinges adde he, if I ſhal leaue of al thinges that pertaine to him vntil morning, any thing piſſing againſt the wal. ²³ And when Abigail had ſeene Dauid, ſhe made haſt, and light from her aſſe, and fel downe before Dauid vpon her face, and adored vpon the earth, ²⁴ and fel at his feete, and ſayd: In me my lord be this iniquitie: let thy handmayde ſpeake I beſech thee in thine eares: and heare the wordes of thy ſeruant. ²⁵ Let not my lord the king I pray thee, ſet his hart vpon this naughtie man Nabal: becauſe according to his name, he is a foole, and follie is with him: but I thy handmaide ſawe not thy ſeruantes my lord, whom thou didſt fend. ²⁶ Now therefore my lord, our Lord liueth, and thy foule liueth, who hath ſtayed thee that thou ſhouldeſt not come vnto blood, and hath ſaued thy hand to thee: and now be thine enemies as Nabal, and they that ſeeke euil to my lord. ²⁷ Wherefore receiue this benediction, which thy handmaide hath brought to thee my lord: and geue to thy ſeruantes that folow thee my lord. ²⁸ Take away the iniquitie of thy handmaide: for our Lord making wil make to my lord a faithful houſe, becauſe thou my lord doeſt fight the battels of our Lord: let not malice therefore be found in thee al the dayes of thy life. ²⁹ For if a man ſhal riſe, perfecuting thee, and ſeeking thy life, the life of my lord ſhal be kept, as in the ^{b)}bundel of the liuing, with our Lord thy God: Moreouer the life of thine enemies ſhal be whurled, and in the violence, and whurle of a fling. ³⁰ When our Lord therefore ſhal doe to thee, my lord, al good thinges, which he hath ſpoken concerning thee, and ſhal conſtitute thee prince ouer Iſrael, ³¹ this ſhal not be an occaſion of fobbing to thee, and a ſcruple of hart to my lord, that thou haſt ſhed innocent blood, or thy ſelfe haſt reuenged thy ſelfe: and when our Lord hath beſtowed theſe benefites vpon my

^a Euil wordes for curteous vſage heretofore, and for late gentill in-treating by meſſengers.

^b Things tyed in bundels are ſtronger and more ſecure, then ſingle and looſe.

lord, thou shalt remember thy handmaide. ³² And Dauid sayd to Abigail: Bleffed be our Lord the God of Ifrael, who hath sent thee this day to meete me, and bleffed be thy speech, ³³ and bleffed by thou, which hast stayed me to day, that I might not goe to blood, and reuenge me with myn owne hand. ³⁴ Otherwife our Lord liueth the God of Ifrael, who hath staied me, that I should not doe thee any euil: vnles thou hadst quickly come to meete me, there had not remained to Nabal vntil morning light, any pissing against a wal. ³⁵ And Dauid tooke of her hand al thinges which she had brought him, and said to her: Goe peaceable into thy house, behold I haue heard thy voice, and haue honoured thy face. ³⁶ And Abigail came to Nabal: and behold he had a feast in his house, as it were the feast of a king, and Nabals hart was pleafant: for he was drunke exceedingly: and she told him not a word litle or great vntil morning. ³⁷ But early when Nabal had digested his wine, his wife told him these wordes, and his hart was dead inwardly, and he became as a stone. ³⁸ And when ten dayes had passed, our Lord stroke Nabal, and he died. ³⁹ Which when Dauid had heard that Nabal was dead, he sayd: Bleffed be our Lord, who hath iudged the cause of my reproch at the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his seru-ant from euil, and the malice of Nabal hath our Lord rendred vpon his head. Dauid therefore sent, and spake to Abigail, that he might take her to himselfe to wife. ⁴⁰ And Dauids seruantes came to Abigail into Carmel, and spake to her, faing: Dauid hath sent vs vnto thee, to take thee to his wife. ⁴¹ Who arising adored flat toward the earth, and sayd: Loe let thy seruant be as an handmaide, to wash the feete of the seruantes of my lord. ⁴² And Abigail arose, and made haft, and gatte vpon an asse, and five women went with her waiting maides, and folowed the messengers of Dauid, and became his wife. ⁴³ Yea and Achinoam also did Dauid take of Iezrahel: and both were his wiues. ⁴⁴ But Saul gaue Michol his daughter Dauids wife to Phalti, the sonne of Lais, who was of Gallim.