



Title | Taking Back for Ourselves
What We Once Entrusted to God
Series | Making a Difference in a Nation Adrift
Text | 1 Samuel 25:1-44
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

1 Samuel 25:1 Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. 2 And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. 3 Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. 4 David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. . . . 13 And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage. 14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, . . . 20 And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. . . . 23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. . . . 26 Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. 27 . . . For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. 29 If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. 30 And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, 31 my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant." 32 And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! 33 Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! . . . ESV

Big Idea:

1 Samuel 25:33 Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from working salvation with my own hand! ESV

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 1 Samuel 25:1-44. How does David's initial response to Nabal in 1 Samuel 25:12-13 contrast with his response to Saul in chapter 24, in which he exemplifies overcoming evil with good, not revenge? What does this inconsistency suggest about God followers? How does this make you feel?

Tuesday:

In 1 Samuel 25, verses 26, 31, and 33 variously convey the idea of "saving with your own hand," "working salvation himself," and "working salvation with my own hand." In this context, what does it mean? What kind of salvation is in view? Why would doing such a thing be a problem? To what extent do you struggle with "working salvation with your own hand?"

Wednesday:

In 1 Samuel 25:39, David says the Lord "has kept back his servant from wrongdoing." What is the wrongdoing in view? To what extent do you see this in your own life?

Thursday:

Read 1 Samuel 25:23-31. Summarize the points Abigail makes to David. Now consider David's response in 1 Samuel 25:32-33. What factors would have made such a response difficult? What character qualities does David's response reflect? How can you cultivate these qualities?

Friday:

In Acts 13:22, God describes David as "a man after my heart." In Psalm 78:72, David is described as a shepherd with an "upright heart." How can this be when, in 1 Samuel 25, David was intent on murdering the entire family of someone who insulted him?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for taking back what is rightfully yours in an effort to "work salvation with my own hand." Help me to entrust myself to you afresh. Amen.

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