

Marriage Series 2009, (#7)
HERO or ZERO

In last week's lesson, we left Lady Abigail in need of a spiritual hero. There were two male believers who could have filled this role, but neither of them was willing.

- **Her husband, Nabal**, could have been this spiritual hero but it would have required a change of core beliefs of this reversionistic believer (1 Sam.25:17; Eph.4:22-24; Rom.12:2).
- **David** could have been this spiritual hero but he was struggling with unresolved carnal pain and anger of life's injustices (Eph.4:26-27, 31).

Unfortunately both of these men were acting like spiritual zeroes rather than spiritual heroes.

Today's lesson will study four aspects of how God changes a spiritual zero into a spiritual hero.

1. Abigail believed she could not communicate with her husband regarding this crisis.

She was fearful of putting it in the hands of Nabal and unwilling to leave it in the hands of God. What did Abigail fear would happen? (1 Sam.25:26) Why didn't she tell her husband? (1 Sam.25:17-19, 25)

Therefore she appealed to a stranger to be her spiritual hero. She appealed to a person that she had never met and knows only by rumors and by lyrics of songs written about him (1 Sam.18:17; 25:26-31). This is a desperate housewife. She doesn't realize it but her action could be a detriment to her, her marriage and household, and the plan of God.

Here is the important point: "It wasn't the only option left and it wasn't her best option according to the word of God."

2. We learned last week that Abigail's best option was to submit to Nabal's position of authority and to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, her spiritual HERO! "Fixing our eyes on Jesus." (Heb.12:2a)

"Therefore, **gird** your minds for action, **keep sober** in spirit, **fix** your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Pet.1:13)

Divine chain of authority: "But I want you to understand that **Christ is the head** of every man (husband), and **the man is the head** of every woman (wife), and **God is the head** of Christ." (1 Cor.11:3)

- God, The Father
- Christ
- The husband
- The wife

"Wives, **be subject** (Eph.5:21) "And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ (Eph.5:33) show respect (or reverence (hupotasso / p.a.ptc.nplm) [submission to divine chain of authority] to your own husband, as to the Lord." (Eph.5:22) [no actual verb / echo verb of example]

3. **This matter is between Nabal and David and the Lord but NOT Abigail. Unfortunately, she believes that she has a better chance changing a stranger's mind than her own husband's.**

She had given up on Nabal rather than given up to the Lord. She is operating from conformity to world rather than transformity to Christ (Rom.12:2).

Abigail needs to work on Abigail and let the Lord work on Nabal and David based on the divine chain of command. Was God willing? (1 Sam.25:32-35, 38) As the Lord begins to change Abigail in her relationship with Nabal, this change will influence Nabal to change him – “In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, **they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives**, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.” (1 Pet.3:1-2)

This doctrinal principle can be taught and applied to every divinely delegated authority of every divine institution as well as the church. In fact, it is one ministry of women to women of the church – “Older women likewise are to be **reverent in their behavior**, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching** what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, **being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.**” (Titus 2:3-5)

4. **God has the power to change a spiritual zero into a spiritual hero – “to conform to the image of His Son.” (Rom.8:29)**

You read a list of some 17 names recorded in Hebrews Ch. 11, of believers who God changed from a spiritual zero to a spiritual hero.

We will mention seven qualities of a spiritual hero-husband according to the word of God (1 Cor.7:1-6; Eph.5:23-28, 33; Col.3:19; 1 Pet.3:7).

- Duty to the sexual needs of wife (ten opheile apodidomi / p.a.impv) [command] (1 Cor.7:1-6, 33-35)
- Head (kephale) [Divine chain of authority] of wife as Christ (1 Cor.11:3; Eph.5:23)
- Love wife as Christ (agapao / p.a.impv) [positive command] (Eph.5:25-28,33)
- Nourish (ektrepho) [develop to maturity] and cherish (thalpo) [tender care] the wife as Christ (Eph.5:29)
- Don't be embittered against wife (me pikraino / p.p.impv) [negative command] (Col.3:19)
- Live in understanding way (sunoikeo kata gnosis) (1 Pet.3:7a)
- Grant honor (aponemo time) to wife as fellow heir of the grace of life (1 Pet.3:7b)

If Nabal had listened to those under his authority, he would have been given a head-up on being a spiritual zero. The same was true of David.

The difference was that when David got the heads-up by hearing the truth he made a decision to change. This is the quality of a spiritual hero like Christ – “**Not my will but God's will be done!**”

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