



**UNLIKELY HEROES – Pt. 9 - Abigail
How to Deflect Disaster**

New Horizon Church 07-19-2021 Pastor John Raymond

1. Make _____, not enemies.

1 Samuel 25:1-13 (NLT), “²There was a wealthy man from Maon who owned property near the town of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats, and it was sheep-shearing time. ³This man’s name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings. ¹⁰“Who is this fellow David?” Nabal sneered to the young men. “Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters. ¹¹Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I’ve slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where? ¹²So David’s young men returned and told him what Nabal had said. ¹³“Get your swords!” was David’s reply as he strapped on his own. Then 400 men started off with David, and 200 remained behind to guard their equipment.”

Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT), ¹⁵“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.”

2. Initiate strategic _____.

1 Samuel 25:14-17 (NLT), “¹⁴Meanwhile, one of Nabal’s servants went to Abigail and told her, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them. ¹⁵These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us. ¹⁶In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep. ¹⁷You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He’s so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!”

3. Make a _____ appeal.

Proverbs 15:1 (NIV), “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

1 Samuel 25:23-25 (NLT), “²³When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. ²⁴She fell at his feet and said, “I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say. ²⁵I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don’t pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.”

Proverbs 15:23 (NLT), “Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!”

4. Anticipate the _____ of God.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV), “**Blessed** are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

1 Samuel 25:39-42 (NLT), “³⁹When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise the LORD, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin.” Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife. ⁴⁰When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, “David has sent us to take you back to marry him.” ⁴¹She bowed low to the ground and responded, “I, your servant, would be happy to marry David. I would even be willing to become a slave, washing the feet of his servants!” ⁴²Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David’s messengers. And so she became his wife.”
