

# Crack in the Armor // 1 Samuel 25 //

## *The Life of David #9*<sup>1</sup>

### Announcements

[Video: History of SEE] **\*\*KEEP VAMPING\*\***

We do whatever it takes to reach all people...

Want our church to reflect the diversity of our community...

**Join me as I pray...** Prayer

### Introduction

The date is April 27, 1777; the place: Ridgefield, CT. Two years into the American Revolutionary War.<sup>2</sup> A 35-year-old Benedict Arnold—one of George Washington’s favorite Generals—is outmanned and outgunned by the oncoming British forces. So he orders his men to retreat—and they do ... but **he** doesn’t. It was one of the bravest things anybody had ever seen: Benedict Arnold remained at the battle line, single-handedly fending off an entire British battalion so his men could safely escape. His horse was shot out from under him, and Arnold was pinned underneath it. Somehow, with several British soldiers an arms-length away, but he fought them off and escaped.

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<sup>1</sup> Works Consulted: Tim Chester, *1 Samuel For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God’s Word for You)*, The Good Book Company, September 15, 2014; John Sailhammer. *NIV Compact Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994); Thomas Schreiner, “Rebuke and Submission,” a sermon posted by The Gospel Coalition; Women of the Bible, “A King, a Fool, and a Wise Woman,” a podcast posted on January 6, 2020; Andy Stanley, “The Abigail Way,” a sermon preached at North Point Church, posted on May 15, 2018; Peter Krol, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/dont-get-too-familiar-with-the-bible>

<sup>2</sup> “History Daily,” Noiser podcast. <https://www.noiser.com/history-daily>. Accessed September 26, 2022.

That was one of many heroic feats the men in his command had seen him perform. Benedict Arnold was a rising star in the Continental Army, and (arguably) one of the America’s most capable military minds.

But he had a fragile ego, and the Continental Congress overlooked him for promotion time and again. Almost all Arnold’s friends, men whose skill and accomplishments were vastly inferior to his own, were promoted. Historians still can’t explain why Arnold was overlooked. To make matters worse, Congress refused to raise his salary, even when he desperately needed and clearly deserved it.

Fast forward to October, 1777, at Saratoga. Arnold is under the command of General Horatio Gates, a man whose skill didn’t hold a candle to Arnold’s. The men there at Saratoga loved and were more loyal to Arnold, but Gates was in charge.

A jealous General Gates refused to heed Arnold’s very wise counsel about how to fight the battle; and, as an act of spite, banished Arnold to his tent to sit the battle out. But then the battle started to go badly, just as Arnold had predicted it would, and Arnold couldn’t stand it—so he broke out of his tent, mounted his horse and rode up to the front lines like a madman, ordering men around. Because of his reputation, the soldiers listened, and Arnold launched a successful counter-attack that shifted the momentum and turned the tide of the battle. Solely because of Arnold’s bravery and intervention, the patriots won the battle of Saratoga.

During that battle Arnold was wounded—shot in the leg—and he had to spend the next 5 months recuperating in a hospital tent. Meanwhile, General Gates took full credit for the victory, never even mentioning Arnold. Once again, the Continental Congress gave no recognition or reward to Arnold.

Fast forward now to 1779. Benedict Arnold is in Philadelphia. His wife Peggy, a Tory loyalist, has been passing him British articles about the war, and Arnold realizes that the British officers speak better of him than even his own government does.

His wife Peggy arranges a meeting between Arnold and British officer John Riley; and, just like that, an American patriot war hero became an infamous symbol of selling out your country for money.

**How tragic to spend a lifetime faithfully serving one allegiance only to become a traitor to it in the end. Today in 1 Samuel 25 you're going to see David come this close to doing just that--to selling out the values he has championed up to this point.**

Think of 1 Samuel 25 as "part 2" of the story we looked at last week in 1 Samuel 24: we left off in chapter 24 with David as the hero, bravely defying his men who were urging him to take matters into his own hands and kill Saul. In that moment, David, true to form, was the one who urged them to boldly trust God and do things his way. David's courage and faith in that moment were inspiring.

Today, David is the one whose faith falters, whose flesh gets the best of him, and somebody else has to come to HIS rescue.

**And it's going to leave us wondering: Is David really the King we've been waiting for?**

Let's read: **1 Samuel 25:1 Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah.** This is important, because Samuel had always functioned as a type of father figure for David; a spiritual mentor. Samuel is the one who believed in David when nobody else did. And now he's dead, so David feels shaken. Unmoored.

**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.**

- By the standard of that day, this guy was REALLY rich. Simply owning land and livestock made you wealthy; to have 3000 sheep and 1000 goats put you squarely in the 1%.
- In our terms it's like saying he had a fleet of Lamborghinis and a couple of vacation homes in Turks & Caicos.

**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;**

Some of you ladies just leaned in. "Ooh, this sounds like it could be interesting." Yes, ladies, there's some good stuff in here for you. For all of us.

**Let me summarize the next few verses for you:** David and his men had been staying in the vicinity of Nabal, and a number of times David and his men protected Nabal and his property from raiding parties; they'd been super helpful to Nabal's shepherds and really helped them thrive. Vs. 16 says that David and his men had been like a **shield wall** for Nabal.

Well, in those days it was customary every year, at the time of sheep-shearing, to give a Thank You gift to people who had assisted you throughout the year. So, David sent some of his young men to ask for that--it was just expected--but Nabal refused to do it. And even worse, he sent David's men away with this stinging insult, **vs. 10: "Who is David? Who is the (runt) son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters.** Not only do I show no gratitude toward David, I question who he is. Imagine you are a waiter at a really nice restaurant, and some large party comes in, rents a private room, and you and a couple of runners are assigned responsibility for them. They are there for like 5 hours,

until after midnight, and you and your team give excellent service; really busting your hump to take care of their needs. Well, the bill comes, it's for several thousand dollars, and the guy disputes several items and leaves no tip. You are like, "Sir, I think you forgot to fill out the tip portion." And he says, "Quit begging me for money, you paean. The only reason you are a waiter is probably because you flunked out of school and can't handle a real job, like mine. Get out of my face." I'm guessing you're going to be angry on multiple levels. That's basically what happened to David, just on a much larger scale.

Plus, Nabal's insult touched on a tender spot for David: David had grown up as the runt; I mean--for crying out loud--when Samuel came to choose one of Jesse's sons as King, his dad FORGOT ABOUT HIM. Literally didn't even invite him to the tryout! That's not a wound you recover from easily. David's probably always felt overlooked. And then David is publicly smeared and exiled by Saul, and that left him feeling a bit insecure, too. This insult plays on those insecurities.

**So, vs. 13** David says, "That's it. Every man strap on his sword! It's go-time." Vs. 21, "Nabal has returned me evil for good. 22 (God help me) if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him." Where is that guy from the previous chapter who says, "I'll let God handle these things? I'm not going take vengeance into my own hands?"

Last week he resists killing Saul when Saul, who is hunting him, is sitting there vulnerable right there in front of him. This week he is about to murder a bunch of innocent people because he got stiffed on a tip and insulted by a nobody. Does that ever happen to you? You resist some big temptation only to fall to a much smaller one? That's happened to me SEVERAL times in my life. After some big spiritual victory, I fall to the smallest of temptations.

David is tired--he's worn out, and this guy plays on his last nerve. And David loses it.

**Well, Nabal has a wife named Abigail.** And you remember, vs 3, she was discerning and beautiful. She hears about this and vs. 18, she panics, and so she pulls together a big gift basket full of fruit and fig newtons, some Starbucks gift cards and a pair of AirPods and hurries out to meet David. I'm not kidding, it's all right there in vs. 18.

As she approaches David she bows to the earth and says: **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. **25 Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he."** Nabal's name means "fool" in Hebrew--which means his name probably originated in another language, because no parent would knowingly name their kid 'fool.'

She continues, **Nabal (fool) is his name, and folly is with him.** He's named "stupid," he is stupid. Ladies, this is not exactly a model for how you should talk about your husband, but, you know, when there's a band of soldiers coming to kill all the males in your house, you do what you gotta do.

**But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.** I love this: This wouldn't have happened if I had been involved. *NEXT time you come--ask to speak to the lady of the house."*

Now, listen to what she says next: **[29] "David, if men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be... 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.**

What's she doing? She is reminding David of the promises of God. Who he is in the Lord and what God has promised to do for him.

**Did you see how she brought up the word 'sling' twice in her statement?** What's she trying to do? She's very subtly and very artfully reminding David: "Hey David, Remember how God took out

Goliath for you? God fights your battles, David? You don't have to take matters into your own hands!"

[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 taking vengeance himself.

One day, she says, when you come to the throne, you're going to have to tell the story of how you got here, David. And on that day, when you are telling your grandkids the story of how God put you on the throne, do you want to have to mention a chapter like this--where you got insulted by a 'nobody' and killed a bunch of innocent people in response?

BTW, could I stop there? **That's actually GREAT counsel.** One day, your life story will be told to the next generation. Are you living in a way that you'll be proud of how it's told?

- Mom and dad couldn't wait to be married, and they didn't trust God, so they lived together. Or would you rather them say, "Mom and dad were determined to do things God's way, and to put Christ at the center of our home from the very beginning."
- Do you want your kids saying one day, "Mom and Dad always lived right at the edge of their spending abilities. They didn't really tithe or save because they just wanted to enjoy things in the moment." Or, would you rather them say, "Mom and Dad determined always to put God first and always live generously. They trusted God even when it was hard and taught me that I could trust him, and taught me always to put the Kingdom of God first"
- Do you want them to say about you, "When they were single, they were frantic and desperate." Or, do you want them to say, "They learned to trust God and wait on him no matter the circumstances." Faith means living today in a way that one day

you'll be glad you did. It means thinking about how you want this story of your life to be told to the next generation and living that way.

[32] And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you (that's a key word) this day to meet me! [33] Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from avenging myself with my own hand!"

Here's our first lesson:

### 1. We need the body of Christ

Everybody has lapses of judgment. David in the previous chapter is the one urging everyone else to stand firm; now he's the one who caves. We need Abigails in our lives. **In Vs. 32, David recognizes that God sent her to him.** God sent you to warn me and keep me from danger.

You have to be in a place where God sends those people to you, because everybody has lapses in judgment; everybody gets caught in a weak moment when the right combination of factors expose a vulnerability.

Abigail is that friend who speaks up in your small group when you are about to make a decision. I've told you this before, but people in our church sometimes tell me about the dumbest decisions they make, and I ask them, "Why on earth did you think that was a good idea?" And they say, "Well, I prayed about it and it felt right."

- Please don't misunderstand what I'm about to say, but God has given you something even more reliable in decision-making than prayer, and that is the counsel of the body of Christ.
- That's how God answers your prayer--in a multitude of counselors there is wisdom. An isolated man seeks his own desire and rages against all sound judgment.

- When people make one of those devastating decisions, it's usually in the throes of an emotion, and others who are detached from it can tell you what the wise thing to do is.

You need Abigails in your life, and you should seek to be an Abigail to others. Abigail is a model of godly counsel in every way.

- **She speaks with calm clarity in an emotionally charged situation.** Even with so much on the line, she is as cool as a kosher cucumber. She doesn't freak out.
- **She comes humbly:** she bows down, shows honor. She doesn't come haughtily or filled with rage or self-righteousness.
- She came **kindly, bringing food and warmth** with her.
- But, she **also comes boldly and honestly** (she told the truth; she rebuked him!)
- And she grounds her counsel to David **in who God is**, and who **David is in Christ**.

God give us friends like Abigail! Amen?

**And by the way, I love how this story rather subtly challenges our stereotypes.** Nabal is the weak, emotional one and Abigail is the calm, courageous one. Our society often assumes the opposite: women are the irrational, emotional ones and men are the calm, strong ones.

Ladies, God made you to be an Abigail. Some of the best parts of human history and for sure the history of the church have been written by strong, wise, courageous women like her--women who did save the day when the men around them were acting like fools. As a dad of 3 young daughters, I want to raise Abigails, not doormats.

**Which leads me to our second lesson.** This one is an exclusive for the ladies:

## 2. Ladies: You can be a wise woman and a blessing to your family even with a foolish husband

Sometimes a woman ends up in a marriage that is not ideal--maybe she married young, or before she was a Christian, or maybe he's just changed, or whatever--but, bottom line, she feels trapped and like she'll never be able to make positive impact on the world or her family. It's exactly the opposite. Learn from Abigail. She saves the life of her husband and children despite her bad marriages<sup>3</sup>

Some of you are in difficult marriages, and I don't want to sugarcoat it: I know it's hard. But God has you there for a reason.

- You can probably see how God has used that difficult marriage to teach you more about him, right? Sometimes the best lessons about God are learned in pain and difficulty. **It's like Socrates always said, 'By all means, marry. If you get a good spouse, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.'**
- It's similar to how a pearl is formed in an oyster. That beautiful pearl starts in the heart of the oyster as an irritant, a grain of sand. The oyster covers the irritant with pearl, and through years and years of living with that irritant, something incredibly valuable is formed. No irritant, no pearl! For some of you, that difficult relationship is the irritant that forms the pearl of God's character in you.
- You can go home today and say to your husband, "You are my pearl seed." Just kidding. Don't say that.

But maybe even more important than what he's doing in you, he's got you there, just like he had Abigail there, to save the lives of others.

- In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul said that a believing wife married to an unbelieving man, still sanctifies her kids. To "sanctify" means "to set apart." Paul is saying that her presence in the home "sets apart" your kids for grace. It gives them a chance to see the gospel lived out and believe.

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<sup>3</sup> *Women of the Bible*

- A guy on our staff once told me that the only Christian in his family was the grandmother—not his parents; none of the grandfathers, aunts, uncles, or anybody else followed Jesus. He said he faithfully stayed in an environment where she was lonely, sometimes ridiculed. But one by one, he said, he watched as every single grandchild started to get saved. Now, he said, all of us grandchildren are believers. All because of a grandmother who stayed. That might be you.
- **God might even use you to save the life of your husband.** In 1 Cor 7 the Apostle Paul talks about unbelieving men who are woken up because of the consistency, wisdom, and patient, faithful beauty of their wives. They see how you react to hardship and it opens their heart to the gospel.
- My point is: Who knows what God will do with your faithfulness? Don't abandon your post! **Learn from Abigail:** Even if you're married to a fool, God can still use you as a tool!

I have a corresponding point for the men:

### 3. Men: Don't be a Nabal

What a terrible story to be told about a man. Don't make your wife have to go behind your back to accomplish those things because you're living a life of foolishness. Lead in such a way that her wisdom complements yours.

Are you the spiritual leader in your family? A leader in generosity? Some of you need to wake up out of your Nabal ways. Your wife has been inviting you to church, pleading with you. And now you're here. That's not accidental. You may not have it all figured out yet, but the journey of 1000 miles begins with the first step, and it's time today for you to take that step.

**Let me show you how this story ends:** 36 And Abigail (returns home) came to Nabal, and behold, he was holding a feast in his house, like

the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was (crunk) very drunk. So she told him nothing at all until the morning light. 37 In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal..

- (By the way, I have to point this out. It's just too good to pass up. There's a lot of 'playing on words' happening here in Hebrew that we miss in English. Scholars say this is all quite obvious in Hebrew. 'Nabal' not only is the word for "fool," it also sounds like the Hebrew word for 'wineskin,' "Nebel." Nabal is not only a fool, he's basically an old wine-sack.
- And get this, that phrase, "When the wine had gone out of him" was a Hebrew euphemism for peeing. The author is saying, "Nabal is nothing more than an insignificant wineskin peeing away his life..."
- In chapter 24 the author made poop jokes; in chapter 25 he turns to pee jokes. Middle schoolers, hear me clearly: tell your parents that if you like to make potty jokes, urine good company (Pause. Get it...?)

Alright, back to the text...

...when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. 38 And about ten days later the Lord struck Nabal, and he died.

This is tragic for Nabal, but The author is trying to show us that just like Abigail said, God will fight David's battles for him, if David will just leave things in God's hands. David doesn't need to take vengeance on fools like Nabal, God will do it

And that leads us to our fourth lesson:

### 4. You cannot accomplish the promise of the Spirit in the power of the flesh

This is the theme that ties this story to chapter 24, only that in this chapter David almost goes back on the lesson he demonstrated for us so beautifully in the previous one.

When life takes an unexpected turn, we face a choice: we can take matters into our own hands, or we can do things God's way and wait on him to fulfill his promises, and maybe the primary way we are tempted to take matters back into our own hands is by exacting vengeance on our enemies. It's like I said last week, when you are wronged, a little tuning fork gets rung inside of you that feels like it is in complete harmony with the universe, and when you are getting back at someone, it feels so right--you feel like you are nigh unto deity in telling the person off, or paying them back.

- **Think about it:** When someone does something rude to you in traffic, pulls into your lane and runs up on your bumper, and then has the audacity to somehow act like it is your fault; they lay on the horn, and then zoom by you giving you the one-finger-salute, do you just instinctively roll down the window and yell, "Bless you friend!" No, our instinct is to respond to unkindness in kind.

That's our instinct. And momentary traffic episodes may not be that big of a deal, but that same instinct works its way out in every relationship.

- Your friend is self-absorbed and insensitive to your needs; so you respond by being aloof and distant.
- Your boss is a jerk; so you respond with sloppy work or by finding ways to undermine him.
- Your spouse is rude and oblivious to your needs; so you are cold and petty toward them.
- Some family member lets you down or makes you mad, so you blow up and scream at them.

All of these responses are trying to fix the situation in the power of our flesh. We think that by repaying unkindness with unkindness, we

can fix the situation, because hopefully when the other person gets a taste of how they've hurt us, that will make them change their ways.

The only problem is: Have you noticed that it rarely works? Listen carefully to this verse from James in the NT: **"For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."** (James 1:20)

- Righteousness in these verses would be synonymous with "the kingdom of God." The anger of men cannot produce righteousness; the anger of man won't build God's kingdom.
- It feels like when you see a lack of righteousness in your spouse or your kids or your boss or your friends that if you get angry and punish them for what they did, that will wake them up into righteousness. But James clearly says here, "The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."
- Something else does, he says. The implanted word, sown in grace, produces righteousness. So "Put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness" and respond, instead, with meekness and forgiveness and grace. That's how GOD'S righteousness is produced in the world.

**Think about it: That's how Jesus changed us, right? Jesus didn't change us by paying us back for our sin; he changed us by showing us grace.** God's law told me what I was supposed to do; and his threats of judgment may have scared me into some outward conformity; but only his grace gave me the desire to obey him. Only grace changed me.

**You'll never accomplish the work of the Spirit** by the power of the flesh.

This was a big theme in Paul's letters, too: **Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.** (Romans 12:21)

- That word **conquered** is a military term in Greek. How do you conquer evil in others? Not by repaying evil with evil, but by repaying evil with good, and trusting God.

Taking matters into your own hands doesn't truly **conquer** evil in them or you. It just makes a mess for everyone.

- Many of you know Rick Langston--he's one of our oldest pastors on staff, in his 60's. He had Judi have a great marriage. They recently celebrated 41 years of marriage. One day he said to her, 'Hey, I know for these last 41 years, I haven't been a perfect spouse. Over the years I've often been selfish and rude and sometimes I've blown up at you over small things. But every time I do, you just stay so calm! How do you do that? And she said, '**Oh, it's easy. Whenever you blow up at me I just go and clean the bathroom. I scrub the toilet and it takes my anger away.**' And Rick said, '*That helps?*' She said, 'Oh yes, because I always use your toothbrush.'" (Just kidding. That story is not true.)
- What is true is the story of the longstanding feud that Winston Churchill had with a certain member of the English nobility, a Lady Astor. Their longstanding acrimony was so bad (this is not a joke) that most people knew never to invite them to the same party, because for sure some blow-up would happen. Well, sure enough, some nube to London did it, and over dinner Churchill and this lady got into an argument and Lady Astor shouted, 'If I were your wife, Winston, I would poison your coffee!' To which Churchill replied, 'And if I were your husband I would drink it!' Once Lady Astor was throwing a costume ball and she HAD to invite Churchill, since he was the Prime Minister, but she didn't want to. And, when Churchill accepted the invitation he asked her what costume he might wear so that no one could recognize him, since he didn't want to be seen at her house. She responded that if he came sober, no one would recognize him. To which he responded, 'Yes, but you are ugly, and in the morning I shall be sober.'<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.britishpathe.com/gallery/winston-churchill-quotes/2>; Consuelo, Duchess of Malborough, from her autobiography, *The Glitter and the Gold*.

Tit for tat never accomplishes anything, it just makes everything ugly. Repaying evil with evil never stops evil.

If we want to be vehicles of God's power, producing true righteousness in the hearts of people we love and in the world, if we want to be vessels that God uses to build his kingdom, then we will leave vengeance to God and respond with grace instead.

**Because, again, that's how Jesus changed us.**

Which brings me to the last point of our story:

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## 5. Is David the King we are looking for?

I wish this story ended with David relenting of his desire to take vengeance on Nabal, but the author tucks in a subtle little detail that portends worse things to come.

Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife... 42 And Abigail hurried and rose and mounted a donkey, and her five young women attended her. She followed the messengers of David and became his wife. Now, technically, David was divorced at this point.<sup>5</sup> However, for David this begins his multiplication of wives. See the next verse?

43 David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and both of them became his wives.

David unfortunately begins to follow the custom of his day to exploit his position as King to take lots of wives. In Deut 17, God had warned

<sup>5</sup> Vs. 44. Saul had annulled his marriage to Michal and given her to someone else.



future Israelite Kings about the temptation to do that and commanded them explicitly not to do that.

This chapter is one of the first indications that David may not be the promised King we are looking for. Up until this point he's seemed like it. He was the humble shepherd boy who trusted God and lived with undaunted courage. He has carried himself with grace and trusted God in impossible circumstances.

But here we see--FIRST, a lapse in faith where David succumbed to a vengeful spirit; and SECOND, he starts to leverage his Kingly privilege to multiply wives in disobedience to a direct command of God against that. Erin Piner, who helps me out with research here, says, "*The scroll of Samuel has already begun to stir our affections for a King more righteous than even David.*"

The point is that our salvation will never come from man, no matter how strong or righteous they appear.

*For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is none righteous--no, not one. Even David will fail us.*

In fact, in this story, Abigail is the closest picture we get of Jesus-- she is the wise, discerning sage riding in on a donkey, yet she humbles herself, takes all the blame for what's happened (even though she is innocent), and thereby brings salvation to many.<sup>6</sup> And by her heroic faith she reminds David that God will not build his Kingdom on earth by the power of the flesh, but through humble obedience and trust in God.

David doesn't demonstrate that for us in this chapter. Abigail has to teach it to us, and we're starting to see that David is not the King who will give us identity, security and happiness. No, those things will have to come through a later King--a descendant of David--who like David,

is born in unlikely circumstances; one unimpressive by the standards of the flesh; a Shepherd King who will be despised and taken for granted but learned to trust God show grace, and who ultimately will lay down his life for all of us treasonous Nabals.

BTW, if you're looking for US in this story: we are like Nabal, strutting around like kings, ungrateful to God for his kindness, despising and rebuffing his goodness. But Jesus, the true King, refused to take vengeance on us, dying for us instead.

That King would not just be the Son of David; he'd be the Son of God; and his strength would not come from mere skill with a sling, but from the indwelling Spirit.

He was the true King, the hope not just of Israel but of all the nations, and his name is JESUS.

Bow Heads

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<sup>6</sup> Peter Krol

