

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	13 APRIL	20 APRIL
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin
USHERS	PAULINE & AI LIN	ALVIN & SUI LIN
BIBLE STUDY	YEOW Leadership Lessons from Bible Women	YEOW Leadership Lessons from Bible Women
SERMON	SEE ING OR Discover The Hidden Strength In You (Matt. 5:3-10)	ENG KIM LENG Eve, in contrast with Jezebel: On the nature of sin
SONG LEADING	CHARLIE CHAN	YEOW CHIN KIONG
OPENING PRAYER	ALVIN GOH	MAHIBAN
SCRIPTURE READING	DANIEL LIM	WEN LIANG
LORD'S SUPPER	JOVIN & LIM YEW BOO	YONG ENG LIM & CHRIS LEOW
COLLECTION	FRANCIS LAI	RENGA
ANNOUNCER	YEOW CHIN KIONG	RICHARD LEE
CLOSING PRAYER	RICHARD LEE	CHARLIE CHAN
CHORES	JENETTE	JENETTE

PORTFOLIOS OF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2008

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DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE***EDIFICATION***EVANGELISM

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A weekly handout for members of
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SUNDAYS:
9.30 AM
BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.30 AM
WORSHIP
2.30PM
MANDARIN WORSHIP

FRIDAYS:
8.00 PM
BIBLE STUDY

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that



CHALLENGING QUERY #468
What lessons can be learned from the life of Abigail, wife of King David?

Yeow Chin Kiong

Abigail (whose name in Hebrew means “source of joy”) was the wife of Nabal, a wealthy owner of livestock in Carmel. After her churlish husband offended David by refusing to supply the needs of the future king of Israel’s men as they fled from King Saul (I Sam.25:2-13), Abigail prevents a clash between both men by extending courtesy and provisions to David and his followers (I Sam.25:18-31). Successful in appeasing David’s anger, she became his wife after the death of Nabal. The account of Abigail’s actions (in I Samuel 25) can teach many a lesson to today’s women, and quite a few to men.

Firstly, Abigail had the **courage to act** when there was an obvious need to protect those around her, including her husband. It is sinful not to do the good we know a situation requires of us (James 4:17). Abigail’s decision to act was a difficult one because in making contact with David she was going against the will of her foolish husband. Perhaps she knew that she was so well-loved by Nabal that he would not harm her when he knew. Given Nabal’s brutish behavior, we will never know whether she was taking a risk because he was incapacitated by God right after Abigail related to him what she had done (I Sam.25:36-38).

We do know, however, that it took great courage for a woman to personally meet a group of wandering armed men intent upon doing physical harm to one’s people!

STATISTICS FOR 6 APRIL 2008

CONTRIBUTION	RM2,551
MISSION FUND	RM1,209
BIBLE STUDY	28
VISITORS/YOUTHS CLASS	8 / 5
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	56
FRI - PRAYER MEETING (4 APRIL)	22
MANDARIN WORSHIP	11
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM317

Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.
Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.
Blessed *are* the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt.5:3-10)

For Abigail, this was a courage based on **faith in God's revelation**; she knew that David was a man of God (I Sam.25:28-31). As things turned out, her judgment of David's character proved sound and peace prevailed.

Secondly, she **intervened in men's affairs to bring about peace** in the midst of a potentially-explosive situation. There is a special blessing for peacemakers (Matt.5:9). Those who are prepared to reach out in peace and courtesy, if not kindness, towards their potential or real enemies are not only complying with God's commandments (Rom.12:17-21). They are also acting according to sound tactical, if not strategic, considerations. As the Lord taught concerning the need for awareness of one's capabilities before undertaking any course of action, especially of a confrontational nature: "... what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace" (Luke 14:31-32). Peace is the defining characteristic of the "wisdom from above" (James 3:17). Coupled with the virtues of gentleness and good fruits, a desire and preparedness to bring about a peaceful situation begins a cycle of peace, allowing righteousness to reign for the benefit of all (James 3:17-18).

It must be noted that, wronged though he was by Nabal, David would have taken upon himself bloodguiltiness had he avenged himself with his own hands, when he knew that vengeance belongs to God and his people were to wait for His avenging of wrongs against them (Deut.32:35; Rom.12:19; Hebrews 10:30). David himself admitted as much (I Sam.25:32-33), and valued Abigail's counsel. A peacemaker succeeds in his task when he convinces,- as Abigail had done,- at least one party in a conflict that it is in its interest to pursue peace.

Thirdly, Abigail acted **without compromising her role as a wife and her place as a woman, man's helpmeet**. Unlike the virtuous woman described by King Lemuel's mother in Proverbs 30:10-31, Abigail was not blessed with a husband worthy of her, at least not until Nabal died and David took her as wife. The true test of a married woman is her preparedness and ability to obey God's commandments while being in subjection to an ungodly husband. Nabal was too foolish to understand what everyone around him realized (I Sam.25:14-17),- that his inhospitality had got himself and those that were with him into serious trouble. Abigail did not use feminine charm to persuade David, choosing instead to courteously talk sense to the future King of Israel. It is unfortunate that she had to belittle her husband in the process (I Sam.25:25-26) but it remain a fact that "Nabal" actually meant "fool" and Nabal had acted unwisely.

Abigail's success in averting bloodshed reminds us that wives,- and women in general,- can get their way without imitating,- much less outdoing,- their men-folk in harshness, assertiveness or combativeness. The strength of wives

should be in meekness, as I Peter 3:1-6 instructs us.

Fourthly, Abigail's actions teach us that **our tongue is a potent instrument for good**, as much as Nabal's behavior instructs us that the same organ is a powerful tool for evil (James 3:1-12). Nabal added insult to his lack of good-neighborliness and lack of courtesy. Knowing that David and his band were on the run from King Saul, he had to rub the salt in by bringing up the point that David was then a renegade to his sovereign (I Sam.25:10). In contrast, Abigail's words to David were soft throughout, giving due respect to his person, exemplifying Proverbs 12:18; 15:1, 4; 18:21; 25:15, without the hypocrisy envisaged in Jeremiah 9:8.

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Sun - Angel & Joon Hong (SJ's guests) * William (Sui Lin's husband) * Mr Khoo, Stephanie, Maxine & Wilton (Karen's family & parents) * Dr Michael Beh (Pauline's guest) * Aneesha (Mahiban's daughter)

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Fri - Lawrence & Li Li (Klang)

Sun - Sis Hor (Klang) ; *Mandarin* - Candy, Tze Yean (Kuantan) * Chin Ah Soon & Pow Ching (Klang) * Koays (Malacca)

PRAYER REQUESTS : For the health of: Doris Chan (KL), Francis, Katherine, Frank Pierce, Mahiban, Gary, Mr Chiah Tee Sang (Sis Tee's brother-in-law), Ah Ngen (Han's brother), Steven How (*Daybreak* printer) * Santhi and family * Yik Min's grandmother * DiPalmas' work in India * Charlie DiPalma's eyesight*

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR LEELA : As she rests from another round of chemotherapy

AWAY FROM US THIS MORNING: Richard preaching in Klang

OUR APPRECIATION TO:

1. Dr See Ing Or for sharing a medical talk on allergy last evening and for his sermon this morning during the worship hour.
2. Jennie Ooi and Amy for hosting the medical talk yesterday and all who attended.
3. Edward & Josephine for hosting the Sees.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

- Engs' home fellowship at 8 pm, Tuesday, 15 April
- Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 16 April
- Yeows' home fellowship at 8pm, Saturday, 19 April

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

1. Evangelism Seminar 1 May
2. Ladies Fellowship - Kuantan trip on 10 May co-ordinated by Bessie
3. Sunday School Open Day Saturday, 24 May