

The Whole Counsel of God

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There are not many Christian church ministries or messages that could be labeled full counsel of God or called the true Gospel of Christ—not many. The apostle wrote—Acts 20:24 *“I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”*

If his listeners did not make eternal life, it was not because they did not know the Truth. Acts 20:27 NKJV *“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”* Whether we talk with a friend or give a message to a thousand, the full Truth from God’s Word must be told. The apostle had given *“The whole counsel of God”*—now it was their responsibility to believe the Truth that he gave, and to walk in the light of it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When godly counsel is given, we must be ready to accept it and follow it. Rejecting right counsel in anger can result in serious sins, but accepting godly advice in humility can save our eternal soul. David was willing to admit he was wrong—when he was! David could have avenged himself many times, but the Holy Spirit enabled him to put those injustices in God’s hands.

King Saul tried in every way possible to eliminate his rival. Jealousy plagued him every day, so he pursued David hour after hour. Jealousy is a powerful emotion often used by Satan to destroy eternal souls. An opportunity was presented to get revenge—the advice of the ungodly said: Strike him before he strikes you; but the advice of God

was Romans 12:19 AV *“Avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay.”*

The world’s advice and the Lord’s advice are opposite—but so are the destinations. David could easily have said to strike, but any revenge is serious rebellion against God—it could mean forfeiting his soul if not repented of. 1 Samuel 24:7 NIV *“David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul.”*

One person made a right choice, and many lives were spared. When we decide according to the Word of God, it has an effect on others that glorifies God. Satan always suggests excuses to justify what we could do—but there is no excuse for rebelling against God. The world says revenge is sweet, but the Lord says forgiveness is right—and Christlike! Two options are always presented—the world’s way or the Lord’s way. David did the right thing by rejecting wrong advice.

We, too, meet with temptations, so we must be ready to follow the Word of God. If we are insulted, mistreated, left out, made fun of, and offended, our response will indicate what is in our heart. Matthew 15:19 AV *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts.”* The world says, get back at your enemies; but Jesus says, Luke 6:27 AV *“Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.”*

Any resentment toward anyone must be repented of and totally removed from our heart. *“As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”* Romans 12:18 NIV. It depends on us because it depends on whether we choose to take a scriptural attitude toward them.

Anger is a deadly sin and must be dealt with in a right way. God says, *“You must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language”* Colossians 3:8 NIV. David showed restraint for years when King Saul

persecuted him, but David is later tested when Nabal insults him.

Shepherds kept flocks for landowners—in this instance, Nabal the employer, wrongs David the employee. King Saul still commands Israel’s army, while David and six hundred men fight various tribes in the desert of Paran (PAH ran). They also protect shepherds from roving bandits.

After sheep shearing, the owner would set aside some of the profits and would give some compensation to those who protected his shepherders. There was no law that said one had to do this, but it was a way of thanking someone. David’s men protected Nabal’s flocks, so after the shearing, they think that Nabal would reimburse them for this protection service. Nabal, however, offers nothing.

Nabal means fool and Psalm 14:1 NKJV *“The fool has said in his heart, *there is no God,”* Nabal’s wife, Abigail 1 Samuel 25:3 NIV *“was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.”* Abigail used common sense and good judgment—two things often lacking—when she was dealing with situations—Nabal was fortunate to have her—but he did not appreciate her, and he did not accept the scriptural advice she gave him.

David said to his men 1 Samuel 25:5-6 NIV, *“Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name, say to him: ‘Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! and good health to all that is yours!’”* In Hebrew: Shalom, Nabal! May your family, flocks and herds increase. And may you enjoy all that life has to offer.

David adds 7-8 *“Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at*

a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.”

The men deliver David’s greeting and wait for their paycheck. 10-11 *“Nabal answered David’s servants, ‘Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?’”*

David had been doing voluntary security work for Nabal, but they receive evil for good—an insult instead of an increase. Saying Nabal’s reply made David angry, is stating it mildly. Rage is more accurate. Before this incident, David responded scripturally to persecution and insults, but this time he responds much differently. The human heart can forget; and the sin nature can control.

The Holy Spirit must control our attitude, so we do not sin when insulted. David knew that a small step of revenge was a wrong step of rebellion, but his anger was out of control. This shows that even if we meet an insult right today, we could be tested again tomorrow. Every day is another opportunity to trust God to control our anger and attitudes.

1 Samuel 25:12 NIV *“David’s men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word.”* His response reveals his attitude. Verse 13 AV *“Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men.”*

Four hundred warriors against a drunken employer shows that David’s rage was out of control. He had every intention of settling a score by his own hand; and had no intention of following God’s Word. James 1:19 AV *“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”* That counsel is

given because James 1:20 NKJV *“the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”*

David had refused to lift his hand against the Lord’s anointed, when King Saul tried to murder him, but now he reacts in anger to a few insulting words. The devil would be suggesting to David: There is no reason for Nabal to treat you like this. He has repaid you evil for all the good you did him. You have a right to get revenge—this guy really needs a lesson.

David has forgotten his reply to King Saul 1 Samuel 24:15 NKJV *“Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand.”* This time David takes revenge—it is payback time. he says 1 Samuel 25:22 NIV *“May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!”* There was no doubt what he intends to do.

Satan often tempts us to react in anger and to seek revenge, but God says James 1:19-20 NKJV *“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”* If just one person in the home takes a right attitude, change will be seen, and souls can be saved. Abigail gives David scriptural advice.

She is told 1 Samuel 25:14-17 NIV, *“David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them, yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household.”*

Abigail gives the Truth of God’s Word that diffuses an out-of-control temper. Verses 18-19

NIV *“Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs (sees) of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, ‘Go on ahead; I’ll follow you.’”*

Abigail meets David 1 Samuel 25:24 NIV *“fell at his feet and said: ‘My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.’”* She is giving godly counsel that could restrain David from committing a serious sin. Because one person brings peace, many lives are spared, and a serious wrong is avoided. Abigail was being salt and light—and making a difference because she was giving the whole counsel of God.

When the Holy Spirit reminds us of an unscriptural decision, we are about to make; or a wrong course of action we are about to take; may we be able to respond as David responds. *“Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.”* 1 Samuel 25:32-33 NKJV.

David accepted scriptural advice; admitted the sin he was about to commit; and repented of the attitude he had taken. He 1 Peter 2:23 WEY. *“left his wrongs in the hands of the righteous Judge.”* By God’s great love, mercy, and grace, may we also be able to respond in such a scriptural way to wrongs and insults—that advice is nothing but Truth!



www.fcgchurch.org
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

S054 26 0517P

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia