

## *Your 'Red Carpet' Moment!*

Our Heavenly Father has given you access to more power than you can use in one lifetime. This power is the love of Christ and it operates on the inside of you. Through this power, you can be more, have more, and do more than you've ever imagined. You can live the life you've dreamed about, because God has empowered you through Jesus Christ to strive to reach your goals. You can strive for a successful marriage, a great employment opportunity, financial stability, and good health, but just as you feel empowered to strive for these wonderful things, you should also feel inspired and empowered to help another person to reach higher heights as well. Whether you're single or married, you have an obligation to God to make a difference in the lives of others through His Word.

Making a difference in the lives of others will enable you to have a 'Red Carpet' moment every day. What's a 'Red Carpet' moment? A 'Red Carpet' moment is when you are doing something so extraordinarily important to the Kingdom of God that the eyes of heaven are focused upon you. There's nothing in the earth that compares to this moment, and all it takes is the willingness to grab someone's attention, wake them up, and keep them from making the same mistakes over and over again. This is what the love of God through Jesus Christ will do for a person, and you are the conduit to deliver it. Look at an example of this in 1 Samuel 25:

*4-8 David, out in the backcountry, heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep and sent ten of his young men off with these instructions: "Go to Carmel and approach Nabal. Greet him in my name, 'Peace! Life and peace to you. Peace to your household, peace to everyone here! I heard that it's sheep-shearing time. Here's the point: When your shepherds were camped near us we didn't take advantage of them. They didn't lose a thing all the time they were with us in Carmel. Ask your young men—they'll tell you. What I'm asking is that you be generous with my men—share the feast! Give whatever your heart tells you to your servants and to me, David your son.'"*

Nabal was a prosperous, cantankerous man who behaved foolishly in spite of his wealth. During this time in biblical history, men took honor very seriously. If a man was dishonorable he was thought to be undeserving of life. The favor that David asked was not out of the ordinary for the times, but Nabal took offense and became very angry. He replied in verses 10-11, "*Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? The country is full of runaway servants these days. Do you think I'm going to take good bread and wine and meat freshly butchered for my sheepshearers and give it to men I've never laid eyes on?*"

When David's men delivered this message from Nabal, David was livid. He commanded his men, "*Strap on your swords!*" *They all strapped on their swords, David and his men, and set out, four hundred of them.*" (verse 13)

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David was impetuous and acted out of anger and vengeance. Nabal dishonored him and David was not about to stand for it. Meanwhile Nabal's wife, Abigail, who was very intelligent and beautiful, heard about this and immediately made plans to intercept David's attack.

**1Samuel 25:18-19 (The Message)** *Abigail flew into action. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep dressed out and ready for cooking, a bushel of roasted grain, a hundred raisin cakes, and two hundred fig cakes, and she had it all loaded on some donkeys. Then she said to her young servants, "Go ahead and pave the way for me. I'm right behind you." But she said nothing to her husband Nabal.*

Abigail is a sister after my own heart. Home-girl saved the day.

**1Samuel 25:23-27 (The Message)** *As soon as Abigail saw David, she got off her donkey and fell on her knees at his feet, her face to the ground in homage, saying, "My master, let me take the blame! Let me speak to you. Listen to what I have to say. Don't dwell on what that brute Nabal did. He acts out the meaning of his name: Nabal, Fool. Foolishness oozes from him.*

*"I wasn't there when the young men my master sent arrived. I didn't see them. And now, my master, as God lives and as you live, God has kept you from this avenging murder—and may your enemies, all who seek my master's harm, end up like Nabal! Now take this gift that I, your servant girl, have brought to my master, and give it to the young men who follow in the steps of my master.*

Abigail spoke some sense into David. She knew he was behaving foolishly and impetuously, but didn't speak in a way that offended him. She pleaded with David *"Don't do this thing, Master! When God completes all the good things that He has promised you David, and when He sets you up as the prince of Israel, you won't have the stain of vengeful murder on your heart. Then God can really bless you, and when the Father has worked it out for you, Master, please don't forget me and what I've done here today."*

Do you know what David said? He said in verses 32-34 *"Blessed be God, the God of Israel. He sent you to meet me! And blessed be your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and taking charge of looking out for me. A close call! As God lives, the God of Israel who kept me from hurting you, if you had not come as quickly as you did, stopping me in my tracks, by morning there would have been nothing left of Nabal but dead meat."*

What!!!! Abigail was on point, was she not! Can you imagine what would have happened if Abigail had panicked and been too immobilized by fear to move decisively. We would have had a very different story here. But she didn't keep quiet, she moved by the spirit of God and rose to the occasion. This is what we are required to do as well. Every single time we take advantage of the many opportunities God gives us to witness the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, we rise to our 'Red Carpet' moment!

People are in the dark, and the only way they can come out of that darkness is if someone shows them the way out. This is our job...yours and mine.

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The spirit of truth that we have on the inside has such attracting power. You just never know who's watching you or paying close attention to how you're behaving—could be your future mate. You see, it's not necessary to wave a flag signaling *"Hey look over here, I'm a Christian."* All that's necessary is that you live by the Word of God and reach out to people with the love and power of Jesus Christ.

I'm sure there's at least one person that you know who needs to be delivered from something. There's someone right this very moment who needs your compassion and willingness to help them in the Word. If you can think of such a person, make it your assignment to speak life into them as much as possible. Not to the point that every time you see them you're preaching at them; that'll get them running from you like the plague. Just know that God will give you an opening. He'll give you this 'Red Carpet' moment, and you need to be ready for it.

*1 John 3:18, NIV Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions.*

My nephew said to me once that I remind him of a verb because I was always full of action. This should be said of every son and daughter of the King. When it comes to exuding love and devotion to our fellow Christian brothers and sisters, or to anyone for that matter, our actions should echo those same sentiments.

God is telling you to let your light of love shine; you are the star of the show, and you've got to share the spotlight with those who need it most. So be committed to make a difference in the lives of others, and make the most of your 'Red Carpet' moments.

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