

1 Samuel 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

Analysis

Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

Abigail's response demonstrates wisdom in action. The Hebrew 'vatemaher' (made haste) indicates immediate response to urgent crisis. The provisions she gathers are substantial: two hundred loaves, two skin-bottles of wine, five prepared sheep, five seahs of grain, one hundred raisin clusters, two hundred fig cakes. This represents generous provision for David's band—far exceeding his modest request for 'whatever comes to hand.' Loading these on donkeys enabled rapid transport. Abigail's quick decision-making and resource mobilization display the 'good understanding' the narrator attributed to her (v. 3). She acted decisively while Nabal remained oblivious.

Historical Context

The quantities Abigail gathered would provide a substantial meal for David's entire band. The variety—bread, wine, meat, grain, dried fruit—represented

comprehensive hospitality. Her ability to mobilize these resources quickly indicates household management skills.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Abigail's immediate action contrast with Nabal's obstinate refusal?
2. What does her generous provision teach about responding to urgent situations?

Interlinear Text

נָבָל וְשָׁנָה יָמָן לְקַמְמָה רָא אֶבְזָג יְלִל וְתַמְמָה
made haste Then Abigail and took and two hundred loaves and two bottles
H4116 H26 H3947 H3967 H3899 H8147 H5035

כָּל יְמֵנִים וְסָמִים וְסָמִים שְׁמַרְתָּן כָּל אֵן וְסָמִים שְׁמַרְתָּן
of wine and five sheep ready dressed and five measures of parched
H3196 H2568 H6629 H6213 H2568 H5429 H7039

וְמִתְּמָרִים יָמָן צְמַק יָמָן וְמִתְּמָרִים יָמָן דָּבֵל יָמָן
and two hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs and laid
H3967 H6778 H1690 H7760

עַל בְּתַמְרִים:
them on asses
H5921 H2543

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 16:1 (Sin): And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

Proverbs 18:16 (Parallel theme): A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Matthew 5:25 (Parallel theme): Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

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