

# 1 Samuel 25:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

## Analysis

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**Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.**

The contrasts in this verse are striking. Nabal's name means 'fool' in Hebrew—either a birth name proving prophetic or a narrative epithet. Abigail receives double commendation: 'good understanding' (Hebrew 'tovat sekel') indicates wisdom and discernment, while 'beautiful countenance' (yephat to'ar) describes physical attractiveness. The Hebrew 'qasheh vera' ma'alilim' (harsh/hard and evil in his doings) characterizes Nabal's disposition. His descent from Caleb connects him to Israel's faithful spy, making his behavior more blameworthy—noble lineage did not guarantee noble character. The mismatch between husband and wife creates narrative tension and foreshadows Abigail's crucial role.

## Historical Context

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Names in Hebrew often carried prophetic significance. Whether Nabal was actually named 'fool' at birth or this represents authorial characterization, the

name perfectly describes his conduct. The Calebite clan settled in this region of Judah after the conquest.

## Related Passages

## **Ephesians 2:8 – Salvation by grace through faith**

## John 3:16 – God's love and salvation

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## **Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ**

## Study Questions

1. How do wisdom and foolishness coexist in households and communities?
2. What does the contrast between Nabal and Abigail teach about the relationship between heritage and character?

## Interlinear Text

וְאֵשׁ הַזֹּבֶת שֶׁ כֹּל יְפָת אֲבִגַּיִל וְאֵשׁ הַזֹּבֶת שֶׁ כֹּל יְפָת אֲבִגַּיִל  
and she was a woman of good understanding and of a beautiful

וְהַ וְאַ מְעַלְלִים וְכָעַד קָשָׁה יְבָא וְשָׁתַּעַת אֶת אָרֶב

countenance but the man was churlish and evil in his doings H1931

H8389 H376 H7186 H7451 H4611

כלבון:

and he was of the house of Caleb

H3614

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 14:1** (Parallel theme): Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

**Proverbs 31:10** (Parallel theme): Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

**Psalms 10:3** (Evil): For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.

**Proverbs 31:26** (Parallel theme): She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

**1 Samuel 25:17** (Evil): Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him.

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