

# 1 Samuel 25:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

## Analysis

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**And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.**

The scene shifts to reveal Nabal's oblivious self-indulgence. The Hebrew 'mishteh kebishteh melekh' (feast like a king's feast) ironically describes the fool playing royalty while the true king's representative just left. His 'merry heart' (lev tov) from drunkenness contrasts with the deadly danger he narrowly escaped. The phrase 'very drunken' (shikor me'od) explains Abigail's silence—he was incapable of comprehending the situation. Her wisdom continued: 'told him nothing' until he could understand. The irony intensifies: Nabal feasted in kingly fashion, unaware that four hundred armed men had been diverted from destroying his house. His drunken revelry occurred during his closest approach to death.

## Historical Context

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Shearing feasts were occasions for generous celebration. Nabal's feast 'like a king's' demonstrated his wealth and perhaps his pretensions. His drunkenness

rendered him incapable of rational conversation, explaining Abigail's waiting until morning.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does Nabal's oblivious feasting reveal about foolish self-confidence?
2. How does irony in this scene emphasize the contrast between wisdom and folly?

## Interlinear Text

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א	אָבִיגַיִל יָלָא	אֶל	נָבָל	וְהָיָה	לוֹ	כַּמְשֵׁת הַ
came	And Abigail		and Nabal's			and behold he held a feast
H935	H26	H413	H5037	H2009	H0	H4960

בְּבֵיתוֹ	כַּמְשֵׁת הַ	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְלִבּוֹ	נָבָל	טוֹב
in his house	and behold he held a feast	of a king	heart	and Nabal's	was merry
H1004	H4960	H4428	H3820	H5037	H2896

עַל יוֹ	וְהָיָה	שָׁכָר	עַד	מְאֹד	וְלֵא
		drunken		within him for he was very	
H5921	H1931	H7910	H5704	H3966	H3808

הִגִּידָהּ	לֹ	דָבָר	קָטָן	וְלֹ	עַד	אֶרֶב
wherefore she told		him nothing	less	or more		light
H5046	H0	H1697	H6996	H1419	H5704	H216

הַבֹּקֶר:

until the morning

H1242

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 20:1** (Parallel theme): Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

**1 Samuel 25:19** (Parallel theme): And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal.

**2 Samuel 13:23** (Kingdom): And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

**2 Samuel 13:28** (Parallel theme): Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

**Romans 13:13** (Parallel theme): Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

**Matthew 10:16** (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.