

# 1 Samuel 25:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

## Analysis

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**And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.**

Abigail's response demonstrates continued humility despite her elevation. Her prostration 'on her face to the earth' echoes her earlier approach to David (v. 23). Her self-designation—'handmaid' (amah) willing to serve as 'servant' (shifchah) washing feet—employs the lowest terminology for female service. Foot-washing was typically slave work; Abigail offers to serve even David's servants. This humble acceptance contrasts dramatically with Nabal's arrogant refusals. The woman of 'good understanding' (v. 3) demonstrated that wisdom includes humility. Her excessive deference may reflect genuine character or formal response to royal proposal—likely both.

## Historical Context

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Foot-washing was among the lowliest household tasks, typically assigned to slaves. Abigail's offer to perform this service for David's servants indicated extreme humility. Her language employed maximum self-deprecation appropriate for accepting royal favor.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Abigail's humble response model appropriate reception of honor?
2. What does her willingness to serve even David's servants teach about true greatness?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתִּקַּם	וַתִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה	אֶפְרַיִם	אֶרְצָהּ	וַתֹּאמֶר	הִנֵּה ה
And she arose	and bowed	herself on her face	to the earth	and said	H2009
H6965	H7812	H639	H776	H559	
אֲמַתְךָ	לְשִׁפְתָּהּ ה	לְרַחֵץ	בְּגִלְיָ	עֲבָדֶי	
Behold let thine handmaid	be a servant	to wash	the feet	of the servants	
H519	H8198	H7364	H7272	H5650	
אֲדֹנָיִ:					
of my lord					
H113					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Timothy 5:10** (Parallel theme): Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

**Ruth 2:10** (Parallel theme): Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

**Proverbs 18:12** (Parallel theme): Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

**Proverbs 15:33** (References Lord): The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

**Genesis 18:4** (Parallel theme): Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: