

UNIT 5
1 SAMUEL 24–31

I/ Vengeance is Mine (1 Samuel 24–26)

Abigail says, in effect, "Your task, David, is not to exact vengeance; vengeance is God's business, and you aren't God. You're out here in the wilderness to find out what God is doing and who you are before God. The wilderness isn't an experiment station in which you test yourself and find out how strong and resilient you are. It's where you discover the strength of God and God's faithful ways of working in and through your life. Nabal is a fool, but don't you also become a fool. One fool is enough in this story."... Abigail's beauty is both inner and outer. Her lovely appearance is balanced in the text by the word "discretion" (v. 33). Abigail is as beautiful inwardly as she is outwardly. Abigail's beauty is a witness to the God-created, God-sustained, God-blessed life that's everywhere present but frequently obscured by willfulness and blasphemy. Abigail's beauty surprises David out of his sudden plunge into ugliness, and he sees and hears God again. –Eugene Peterson, *Leap Over A Wall*

II/ “I See Dead People” (1 Samuel 28)

III/ The Brook Besor (1 Samuel 30)

“I’ve never understood why the Brook Besor doesn’t rank along with other definitive place names, such as Bethany, Galilee, Shiloh, Calvary, and Bethel...” –Eugene Peterson

[1] “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4] and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ [5] So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. [6] And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ [7] They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ [8] And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ [9] And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. [10] Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. [11] And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, [12] saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ [13] But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ [16] So the last will be first, and the first last.” (Matthew 20:10–16, ESV)

IV/ A Sad End with a Glimmer of Hope (1 Samuel 31)