

A person wearing a grey hooded robe is kneeling in a grassy field, holding a long wooden staff. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, which is partially obscured by a large tree on the left. The background shows a line of trees under a bright, hazy sky.

A Heart Like
God's

Part 15: An Entreatable Heart

17 But the *wisdom from above* is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *reasonable* (*easy to entreat/ persuadable*), full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

James 3:17

NASB95

A Heart like God's is firm and sure in its convictions, but is not so stubborn that it cannot be persuaded to change course when wisdom requires it.

When we are tempted to
behave our negative
emotions, we can tap into
the heavenly wisdom
embodied by Christ in us.

1 Then Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

1 Samuel 25

NASB95

2 Now *there* was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And it came about while he was *shearing his sheep* in Carmel

3 (now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail. And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in *his* dealings, and he was a Calebite),

4 that David heard in the wilderness that
Nabal was shearing his sheep.

5 So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name;

6 and thus you shall say, 'Have a long life,
peace be to you, and peace be to your
house, and peace be to all that you have.'

7 'Now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, nor have they missed anything all the days they were in Carmel.

8 'Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let *my* young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to *your son David.*' "

9 When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David's name; then they waited.

10 But Nabal answered David's servants and said, "Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? *There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master.*

11 “Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?”

12 So David's young men retraced their way and went back; and they came and told him according to all these words.

13 David said to his men, “Each *of you* gird on his sword.” So each man girded on his sword. And David also girded on his sword, and about four hundred men went up behind David while two hundred stayed with the baggage.

If expressing love and service to others comes with an unspoken expectation of repayment, we have set ourselves up for offense.

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and peace be to all that you have.'

14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, and he scorned them.

15 “Yet the men were very good to us, and we were not insulted, nor did we miss anything as long as we went about with them, while we were in the fields.

16 “They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep.

17 “Now therefore, know and consider what you should do, for evil is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that *no one can speak to him.*”

18 Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred *loaves* of bread and two jugs of wine and five sheep already prepared and five measures of roasted grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded *them* on donkeys.

19 She said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

20 It came about as she was riding on her donkey and coming down by the hidden part of the mountain, that behold, David and his men were coming down toward her; so she met them.

21 Now David had said, “Surely in vain I have guarded all that this *man* has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has returned me evil for good.

22 *“May God do so to the enemies of David,
and more also, if by morning I leave as much
as one male of any who belong to him.”*

The moment we entertain
the idea that our calling is
all about us, we have
opened the door for all
kinds of darkness.

We must learn to carry
the "weight" of our calling
by holding it **tightly** enough
to **steward** it well, and
loosely enough to keep
God in the forefront.

23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face before David and bowed herself to the ground.

1 Samuel 25

NASB95

24 She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant."

25 “Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name and folly is with him; but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

26 “Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, *since the LORD has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand,* now then let your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal.

27 “Now let this gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord.

28 “Please forgive the transgression of your
maidservant; for *the LORD will certainly
make for my lord an enduring house, because
my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD,*
and evil will not be found in you all your
days.

29 “Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then *the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God*; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling.

30 “And *when the LORD does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you,* and appoints you ruler over Israel,

31 *this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself.* When the LORD deals well with my lord, then remember your maidservant.”

32 Then David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me,

33 and *blessed be your discernment*, and
blessed be you, who have kept me this day
from bloodshed and from avenging myself
by my own hand.

34 “Nevertheless, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light *as much as one male.*”

35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him and said to her, "Go up to your house in peace. See, *I have listened to you and granted your request.*"

Courage is risking one's
life to speak wisdom
from above to a
murderous mob.

Wisdom from above has
the ability to draw out
the **best** in people when
their **worst** becomes
manifest.

7 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go down at once, for *your people*, whom *you* brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*.

Exodus 32:7–14

NASB95

8 “They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’ ”

9 The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people.

10 “Now then let Me alone, that My anger may
burn against them and that I may destroy them;
and I will make of you a great nation.”

11 Then *Moses entreated the LORD his God*, and said, “O LORD, why does Your anger burn against Your people *whom You have brought out* from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

12 “Why should the Egyptians speak, saying,
‘With evil *intent* He brought them out to kill
them in the mountains and to destroy them
from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your
burning anger and change Your mind about
doing harm to *Your people*.

13 “Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”

14 So *the LORD changed His mind* about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

"Changed His mind"
("nacham")

"To grieve"

"To sigh"

"to comfort"

"to stroke the face"

God, in His grief, breathed
a sigh of relief because He
found someone who would
love His people like He did
and serve as their
intercessor

Even God can have the best of His own character and nature drawn out by His friends.

How easy is it for us?

Stubbornness is not a fruit of the Spirit.

Friends of God (ones who know and carry His heart) can be trusted **always** to lean toward mercy.