



Rewards for Being Faithful

An 11th century German king, Henry III, grew tired of ruling. He applied to a monastery to spend the rest of his life in quiet contemplation. The prior asked if he, a king, could live out a vow of complete obedience.

“I will,” said the king.

“Then you are accepted,” replied the monk. “Your first duty is to return to your throne and serve faithfully where God has placed you.”

Therein is a lesson for us in 2015.

It is easy to grow weary of being a spouse, a parent, an employer or an employee. Some days we just might want to quit!

The Bible tells about a woman who resisted that temptation to quit. Her name was Abigail, the wife of Nabal, and her story is found in the book of 1 Samuel, the 25th chapter. Abigail was intelligent and beautiful; in fact, she is referred to as being one of the four most beautiful people in Jewish history (the other three being Sarah, Rahab and Esther).

Her husband, Nabal, was harsh and evil. When King David – whose soldiers had helped protect Nabal’s flocks of sheep and his shepherds – sent a small group of men to Nabal requesting provisions, Nabal questioned David’s lineage and insulted his men. In his wrath, David armed 400 men and sent them to deal with Nabal.

When Abigail learned from the shepherds what was about to happen, she took the requested provisions, went to meet David, and begged him to avoid bloodshed. David was moved by her actions on behalf of her husband and called off the threat.

Abigail had chosen to honor her husband instead of humiliating him. She drew joy and strength from God, not from her surroundings. And God rewarded her.

When Abigail confessed to her husband what she had done, he had a heart attack or possibly a stroke and died 10 days later. Upon hearing what had happened, David was so impressed with Abigail that he took her for his wife.

The question for today: Are you tempted to leave it all behind, to throw in the towel? Don’t do it. Make God your joy and wait for His reward.

We are not faithful to get a reward, but we are rewarded for being faithful.

And your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly (Matthew 6:6 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter