

“Lessons from Abigail”
By Jesse Rairdon
Sunday, May 27th, 2018

Please remain standing, if you're able, and brother Pete Shepherd is going to come and lead us in a word of prayer for the message.

Pete: Lord Jesus, thank You for this day, and thank You for this bringing us together safely. Lord Jesus, help us to remember this Memorial Day, what it means. Right now, we ask for a blessing on Your Word, the reading of Your Word. We ask that You bless the heart of Your servant Jesse, as he brings the message, this morning. Bless our hearts to receive what You would have for us today. And, help us to take what You've given us out to the world, and shine Your light, and draw all men unto You. In Jesus name, amen.

Amen. Please be seated, except Brother Andy. He's going to come read for us, First Samuel, chapter twenty-five; we're going to read the whole chapter. That's the text of the message today, the main text of the message today.

1 Samuel 25:1-44 *And Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ramah. And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Paran. And there was a man in Maon, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb. And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast. And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. And when David's young men came, they spake to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased. And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be? So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings. And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff. But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him. Then Abigail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine,*

and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of parched corn, and an hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses. And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Nabal. And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert on the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them. Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good. So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid. Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send. Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the Lord hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal. And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord. I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the Lord will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the Lord, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days. Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the Lord thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel; That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the Lord shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid. And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. For in very deed, as the Lord God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person. 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. But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. And it came to pass about ten days after, that the Lord smote Nabal, that he died. And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the Lord, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the Lord hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife. And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife. 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. And Abigail hasted, and arose and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife. David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel; and they were also both of them his wives. But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

Thank you, brother. So, today's message is going to be "Lessons from Abigail." There's many more lessons that you could learn, but these were some things that were highlighted to me as I was

praying and preparing for this message. Our theme of the month is from John, chapter eleven, verse two:

John 11:2 *(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)*

The points for the message is:

- 1) Faith Moves Us
- 2) Dealing with Difficult People
- 3) The Importance of Hospitality
- 4) Wisdom Brings Direction
- 5) Humility Before Honor

Part One: Faith Moves Us

In verse number eighteen, we saw that Abigail made haste. As soon as she found out that there was trouble coming, she said, "I've got to do something. something's wrong here. Lives are going to be lost." And, she went, and made haste, got some things together, that what David asked in the first place, provisions for his men. To give you kind of a little bit of a history and background on Israel, it was kind of common in those days for shepherds to be out to protect the flock or the sheep, but they also had some sort of an army or police by them to kind of protect them from animals, as well as other invading thieves, robbers, armies, what have you. So, this whole time that Nabal had his sheep in that area, David was kind of protecting them. Sometimes faith moves us because there's not a lot of time to think about what we need to do. We hear that somebody's in the hospital, "I need to go visit them. Right now. I don't need to call a bunch of people and make a decision, I need to go visit them." God lays it on our heart that somebody needs prayer, we pray for them, right now. Faith leads us to worship when we're maybe feeling stressed, or depressed. Just lift our hands and call on the name of Jesus. That kind of just takes it away. Faith moves us to do that. Faith moves us to pray when we don't see a way through difficult situations and difficult times in our lives. Faith moves to have a good testimony, as Parrish was talking about, the testimony before the testimony in the theme for the month. As they wrote about that, for Mary, it's a reminder, Parrish preached about it, they already knew that that had happened, so they were talking about it beforehand, before it comes up in the Scriptures. That testimony is important. Faith moves you to have a good testimony. Hebrews eleven, verses one and two: it says:

Hebrews 11:1-2 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.*

We've been talking about elders this month. You can't be an elder unless you have a good testimony. Very important. You can read the whole Faith chapter (Hebrews 11), it talks about each one of those elders, each one of those examples, how Faith moved them to have a good testimony.

Part 2: Dealing with Difficult People

How many of you have ever dealt with difficult people? "Well, yes, Jesse, I've dealt with you." Of course. My wife can tell you that. Sometimes I can be very difficult. Sometimes, you know, you want to just give me some space. But, Nabal was a different kind of difficult person. He was so obnoxious that no

one could even talk to him. In fact, his name, if you look it up, the definition means fool, godless. His parents named him right that name, didn't they? Pick it up in verse 14:

1 Samuel 25:14-16 *But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them. But the men were very good unto us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we any thing, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.*

So he kind of protected them.

1 Samuel 25:17 *Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; [they're talking to Abigail here] for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him.*

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

Sometimes the response to that kind of person is not a thing. Just don't tell them a thing. You're going to do what you have to do, but don't say a word to them. That's exactly what she did. She knew she couldn't reason with this guy. Matthew, chapter seven, verse six says:

Matthew 7:6 *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.*

Some people you just can't share the good news with. Some people you can't even share truth with. Some people you can't even be nice to. Now, David was difficult, but he was not unreasonable. you ever get so angry that you're just ready to go fight a bear with a twig? David was about that angry, and the closer he gets to Nabal, the angrier he gets. Reminding himself, oh, man, what he's going to do when he gets there. Second Timothy, chapter two, verses twenty-four to twenty-six

2 Timothy 2:24-26 *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

Sometimes we've just got to be patient with people. Sometimes people don't realize they oppose themselves. Sometimes they don't realize they're their own worst enemy. And, we're there to share with them. I'm not talking about a person like Nabal, because you can't cast them anything. But, someone like David, you might be able to just kind of be patient with that, be humble. Have you ever been a difficult person to deal with? Sometimes we think it's the other person that's a difficult person to deal with when it's really ourselves. Sometimes when you go in your prayer closet, God will let you see that. "Jesse, it's you that's being an angry, mean, stubborn, prideful person right now. And, until you get that right, I can't use you." Maybe you've felt the same, sometimes. Amen. I'm glad I'm not alone. Got awful quiet there. God never deals with anybody else like that, right? We're all a bunch of perfect people here, right?

Part 3: The Importance of Hospitality

Nabal didn't feel like he needed to give David any hospitality. Now, you've got to remember, David and his men protected the shepherds and the livestock; he felt like he should have some hospitality. After all, it was the custom of the day, but not only that, they were family. If you remember, Nabal came from Caleb's family, which was one of the two spies that came from Judah, David also came from Judah, so yeah, they were distant, distant, distant cousins, but they were family. So, not only did he have to write it because he protected all his stuff, but they were family! You should be able to go to family and get some help, right? Hospitality is not only important then, but it is now. Matthew, chapter twenty-five, starting at verse thirty-four. Now, this is important, because Jesus is talking, here; so, let's pay attention:

Matthew 25:34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

So, He's talking about judgement day. And, He's talking about those on the right hand.

Matthew 25:35-43 *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

Someone's in the hospital, and you hear about it, and you go visit them, that's hospitality. That's the dirty work Chris was talking about. The one that, sometimes, you don't always get the credit from your fellow brother or sister about. They don't always get the accolades, but God knows. God is not unrighteous to forget your work, and labor of love. Where your ministering, what you're doing. Some of you are sitting in this room because someone showed you hospitality. Someone invited you over to their house, saw you baptized, saw your family baptized, and you're in this ministry because of hospitality. They will have their reward. It's sad to me when I hear people, supposedly in ministry, saying, "I'm not going to do that kind of work; I'll leave that for the people on the ground level. I'm too above for that. I've done earned my stripes. I visited the sick. I've went into the prisons. I've served. I've done my time with that stuff." Well, you've got to get your hands dirty. Where would I be if someone didn't show me some hospitality? Show me some love? Take some time out for me? I surely wouldn't be here.

Part 4: Wisdom Brings Direction

Let's go back to the hospitality, just for a second. Some people would say, "Well, that's just spiritual stuff. I don't really need to roll up my sleeves, and go do the dirty Work." Go into James, where he talks about, "Say to your brother, 'Depart in peace,' and you don't give the things which are needful, have you really shown your faith? Faith without works is dead." If we don't do these things... Amen? If you don't give that brother or sister a ride to church, who's going to? If you don't take them out to lunch

after church, who's going to? Share with them some more about the Scriptures; take time with them. If you don't take their call late at night, who will?

Wisdom brings direction. Do we got hospitality down? Can we move on? All right, amen. This could be a really quick message, or it could be really slow; it's really up to all of us together. Because, I can talk for a while. Amen? But we're not here to just listen to me talk, we're here to get something from God. Wisdom brings direction. Did you ever have wisdom come into a situation and totally change the outcome of the situation? In verse number twelve, going back to Samuel chapter twenty-five, again, thirty-two, I'm sorry, verse thirty-two.

1 Samuel 25:32-35 *And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed be thy advice, [which is wisdom, advice] and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand. For in very deed, as the Lord God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall. So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.*

See, wisdom that comes from God gives direction, gives direction. You ever work so hard on something and then just stop and say, "God I need Your help," and God just gives you wisdom, and it just makes it so much easier, the way is so much clearer? In Ecclesiastes ten, ten, it talks about how wisdom is profitable to direct:

Ecclesiastes 10:10 *If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.*

Meaning you're working harder, not smarter. You got to keep beating that sword. Wisdom is profitable to direct. Sometimes we're out there working so hard, and all we've got to do is just ask God for some wisdom. He already knows. He knows your struggle; He knows what you're going through. Sometimes I get so mad and frustrated when I'm out there driving, I do, I drive Lyft on the side, I get lost somewhere, and the GPS is not getting it, and I just stop and pray, and I say, "God, I don't need to be driving with this kind of attitude. I need some wisdom on how to get back, and get right, and I go where I need to go." And God makes those crooked paths straight. It gives me good direction. He does the same thing in my life. God cares about the everyday needs of you, but He cares so much about your soul. The things that you think are right, and things you struggle with so much with, that difficult boss you're dealing with, pray for wisdom. "What, the boss? You mean I've got to pray for wisdom on how to deal with my boss?" Oh yes. And, sometimes God will even move the boss. Sometimes God will move the boss. But, it's not our place to judge. It's not our place to take anger and go and attack that person. For one, we've got a testimony for all the other people around us. Yeah, we can justify it in our own mind. Even as David was. The angrier he got, the more he was justified in it. Ask God for wisdom. Wisdom brings direction.

I can remember, I was overseas as a young man, stationed in the Navy, I was in Italy, and I shared with a lot of people. One day, I was just kind of sitting in this area where, kind of, people were gathering, just kind of waiting for different folks to come in and out, and there was these two people, they looked like they were arguing. One was a Muslim, I knew he was a Muslim, and one was some other faith, and they were going back arguing back and forth arguing, and, normally, I would just kind of leave that situation alone. I don't want to get in the middle of that, let them fight it out. If they've got some questions later, then I can ask God for wisdom. But, there was a young man that I was sharing

with, a few weeks earlier that just happened to come and sit down. Now, this changes the game. There's a soul at stake here. There's not just these two religious people arguing. So here was this Muslim guy that was like on, "You said there's three gods, okay, give me your Bible. I will show you in your Bible that there's not three gods." So they were going back and forth. And the Muslim looked at me, and he said, "What do you think? I could have just, you know, hammered him, but, I said, "God give me some wisdom." And God said, "Open your Bible, and point to that Scripture." And, the Scripture was, "If you don't believe that I am he, you shall die in your sins." (John 8:24) The Muslim took the Bible, closed it, didn't say another word, and left. The other guy got up and left, I was able to sit and share some more, and baptized the young man that I have been sharing with. But, that doesn't happen unless I wait for God to give me some wisdom. If I took it upon myself to go debate with these guys, what is their thinking going to be? Just a fool like them. Just another religious person. Seek God for wisdom on how to share with people, and be patient with them.

Part 5: Humility Before Honor

You see, sometimes, the harvest, is sometimes the thing that I struggle with the most. I got it right, and, no matter what I do—sometimes I've got so much pride. Humility comes before honor. Proverbs, fifteen, thirty-three says:

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

And First Samuel, chapter twenty-five, let's see Abigail's response after all of this has taken place

1 Samuel 25:40 *And when the servants of David were come to Abigail to Carmel, they spake unto her, saying, David sent us unto thee, to take thee to him to wife.*

And listen to her response:

1 Samuel 25:41 *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.*

We were talking a lot about washing feet. And humility. And serving. This was her first response. And, this should always be our first response when asked to do anything for God. Not just, let me serve, let me help one another, let me help those that are in leadership. Let me pray for those that are in leadership. Let me take the time, just to do the dirty work.

1 Samuel 25:42 *And Abigail hasted, and arose and rode upon an ass, with five damsels of hers that went after her; and she went after the messengers of David, and became his wife.*

Didn't she just wash the feet of those that were with her? Later she became Queen. But she had to have some real humility for the before the honor.

First Peter, chapter five, Peter writing to the church, and Peter says:

1 Peter 5:1-5 *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. And when the*

chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Do you want more grace in your life? You need to go back to humility. Eat some humble pie, as they say. Doesn't taste good, does it, humble pie? But it's good for the soul. Humble yourselves one to another. "Well, I've been here twenty, thirty, forty years, I have a right to lead. I have a right. I have a right to be chosen. I've done my time. I've earned my stripes. I demand..." is that humility? Verse number six:

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

When the time is right, God picks his leaders to lead, God picks his leaders to lead.

1 Peter 5:7-8 *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

And, he is going to devour you with that pride. He's going to take you out with that pride if you're not careful.

1 Peter 5:9 *Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

People in the world deal with the same hurts and pains we do and in the faith. Humility comes before honor. Maybe that's the one thing that's holding you back in your life, in your ministry, in your job, in your family. Maybe just being a little humble sometimes. Taking some time to listen to your wife who's trying to give you some good wisdom from God. "I don't need to listen to her, I'm the head of the household." And, you'll sure fall on your face. I have. My wife can talk to you about that plenty of times. But, when I take the time to listen, when God speaks to her, through her to me. And I say, "Okay, God, this is You, I need to change direction." We need to do this, we need to change this, we need to change our attitude. And God can use me. And God can use me, my house, and God can use me on my job, God can use me anywhere He chooses to. God doesn't care how well we can preach, how well we can teach, how many Scriptures we could quote—Sometimes we're so quick to open up the Bible, and we don't have any humility. Sometimes we just need to stop and listen to folks and hear them out. We're so busy answering their question before they even ask it. Talk it over. I have that problem. I have to just stop and shut my mouth sometimes. Good Lord, help me.

Let's close with the passage we had as our theme back in March, as whoever's coming to close us, after the message, we'll do that soon. John, chapter thirteen, starting it verse one:

John 13:1-8 *Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end. And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou*

knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

If you have no humility, and you can't learn humility, you have no part in God.

John 13:9-11 *Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.*

So, Peter still wasn't getting it. It was a lesson in humility He was trying to give, but he was going to get it after. He said, you don't understand this now, but you're going to understand this lesson in humility and service later.

John 13:12-17 *So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.*

That's the message. Give the Lord the praise.