

Thought for the day - Abigail by Joan Gray.

Welcome to this last Thought for the Day of this series.

Do you have someone you admire, someone you look up to as a role model, a good example to follow. Is there someone you would like to be more like? Possibly there is someone from history or the field of sport. Maybe a superhero with powers which you would quite like to try. For me I think Wonder Woman with her ability to make people tell the truth. Could it be that there is someone who appears to have everything which could make you feel a little jealous of that person.

Abigail may be such a person, someone who appeared to have everything. Married to a very wealthy man. Her Husband had many sheep and goats. Therefore Abigail was viewed as having wealth to accompany her position. We are also told she was beautiful. More importantly she also had tact, loyalty, intelligence and wisdom. Wow that's quite a list. What more could one ask you may say. Someone who truly has everything. Yet what to me is more important than what she had is how she used her abilities and gifts with wisdom and for good. Caught up in the middle of an unpleasant situation, between her Husband and David. Abigail uses her tact and intelligence to bring calm and peace to aid in resolving the situation.

There seems to be little information about the early life of Abigail. We find Abigail in the Old Testament book of Samuel. It is the time when Saul is King and Samuel has died. After they buried Samuel, David went down to the wilderness of Paran.

It is possible that Abigail is one of the lesser known heroines in the Bible. Abigail is also listed as one of the seven Jewish women prophets.

Hear some of the story. Read for us by Steve Hone from 1 Samuel ch 25 v 18 - 20.

Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys and said to her young men, "Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. As she rode on the

donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his men came down towards her; and she met them.

You can read the full story in the rest of the chapter. Verses 14 to 39 or from the start which will set the scene for you.

What happened next? As David and Abigail met? Abigail paid David the respect that he felt her husband should have given him. She knelt before him showing David that her husband was in the wrong and hoping this would assuage David's anger. Which it did. Sometimes when we admire others, at the same time possibly without realizing it we are putting ourselves down. In the way Abigail used her gifts we too should use whatever gifts we have for good in whatever situation, while being the person God wants and intended us to be, individuals each with different gifts and abilities.

It may not be an angry unpleasant situation involving a family member as it was for Abigail, Nevertheless where we are able to use our gifts we should do so.

After the death of her Husband Abigail later became the second wife of David who also had a sister with the same name. (1 Chronicles 2 v 16)

A Prayer.

Dear Lord, it is sometimes so easy to get sucked in to what we or other people think we should be like, To listen to the wrong kind of voice and wander off track, Help us to be true to ourselves, to the person you created and do as the music for today encourages us to do. That is to allow the Holy Spirit to mould and make us a true disciple and follower of you, rather than someone we admire. With your help Lord we can do this. Amen

I have chosen the short prayer chorus as the music for today. It reminds us that we offer ourselves to be the person God wants, with the help of the Spirit.

.Singing the Faith number 395. Spirit of the Living God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06h3J5FYn-I>

