

## STUDY 9

# 1 Samuel 25 - 27

## Friend or fiend?

*Just for starters*

Have you ever made a "fool of yourself"? What happened?

## The rich fool

**Read 1 Samuel 25.1-44**

*Investigate*

1. What major event happens in 1 Samuel 25.1? What does this now mean for the nation of Israel?
2. How is Nabal and his wife, Abigail described? (25.3) How do they each show their character in this episode (25.9-12, 14-23)
3. What do Abigail's words (25.23-31) imply about:
  - a. The LORD?
  - b. David?
  - c. Nabal?
  - d. Saul?
4. Why is David grateful to Abigail? (25.32-34)

5. What happens after Abigail's meeting David? (25.36-42)

*Think it through*

6. What significance does the phrase 'like a king' (25.36) have?

## The Royal Fool

Read 1 Samuel 26.1 - 27.1

*Investigate*

7. What obstacles does David face as he enters Saul's camp (26.5-7)?

8. Why does David refuse to attack Saul? (26.8-11, 23-24)

9. What is Saul's response to David when he finds out that David spared his life again (26.21)?

*Think it through*

10. Was David foolish for not killing Saul?

### Opposing the Chosen King

David had no need to attack Nabal since God himself struck Nabal dead. Nabal had been acting 'like a king' with total contempt for David. He serves as a warning of how God will deal with those who do not acknowledge the LORD's chosen king, but rather set themselves up in opposition to him. This sounds a sombre note for Saul (26.10).

## Fooling the Philistines

Read 1 Samuel 27.1-12

11. Does David trust Saul's words in 26.21? How does he indicate this? (27.1-4)

12. How does David gain the trust of Achish? (27.8-12)

*Think it through*

13. This is now the second time that David acts with apparent deceit towards the Philistines. How should we evaluate David's behaviour in chapter 27? To what extent can it serve as a model for us?