

Refiner's Fire – How We Become People after God's Own Heart – Week Nine

God Prevents Us from Doing Stupid Things

1 Samuel 25:1-44

Introduction: In the refiner's fire, it's possible to succumb to stress and make bad decisions. Fortunately, we serve a sovereign God who acts on our behalf to prevent us from doing stupid things. In this chapter, we discover when we're vulnerable, how to cooperate with God's intervening hand, and the potential blessings that come later.

- 1. *AN UPSURGE OF STRESS – Under pressure we can become highly vulnerable to making bad decisions. 1 Samuel 25:1; 25:44***
 - A. This chapter is book-ended by two events that would have put David in an angry frame of mind.
 - B. Sometimes circumstances invade our lives that weaken our resolve to do the right thing.
 - C. Then, when the opportunity arises, we engage in “cross-addictive sin”.

- 2. *A WISE INTERVENTION – When we're in the process of making the bad decisions, we need to be open to the guidance of God. 1 Samuel 25:2-35***
 - A. David makes a legitimate request for help, but his request is rebuffed by Nabal. 25:2-13
 - B. So, Abigail takes responsibility to intercede for her husband. 25:14-35
 - C. Insight – What do we learn from this?

- 3. *A SURPRISING GRACE – When we obey, God often provides what the enemy took away. 1 Samuel 25:36-43***
 - A. The story that follows is a story of chaotic obedience. 25:26-43
 - B. Obedience opens the door to surprising and unexpected graces in the refiner's fire.