

**PART 2: The Listening Dilemma**

**DATE: 07-10-2022**

## START

There are so many voices speaking into your life. Who are you listening to? When you encounter a mean person, you need to be cautious about whose voice you pay attention to. That is a lot easier said than done.

What makes it so extremely difficult to truly listen when a mean person is ... mean?

Why do we want to get **even** with someone we don't **even** respect?

## READ

1 Samuel 25:21<sup>(NIV)</sup>

David had just said, "It's been useless—all my watching over this fellow's property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good.

## THINK

**Nabal → Evil for Good | David → Evil For Evil | Abigail → Good For Evil**

- These are our three responses to mean people.
- Which response do you find yourself reflecting on the most? Why is that your go-to response?
- What do you find challenging with responding "Good for Evil"?

Abigail was willing to risk everything to do the right thing.

- What are some of the risks you have encountered when dealing with mean people?

Read what Abigail says to David. (1 Samuel 25:24-31)

- What insights do you pull from her words?
- What challenges and/or encourages you?

There are three questions that are guiding us through this series. These questions help us prepare and plan so that we are ready when a mean person crashes into our lives.

**PART 1:** When a mean person escalates, how will I de-escalate?

- How did you do this past week with your "de-escalation plan"?

**PART 2:** Who are you listening to?

- Read 1 Samuel 25:22 → It is easy to use God to justify our ungodly actions. And David was doing it in full display. In what ways have you done that? What safeguards have you discovered to help limit your justification?
- What positive attributes do you see in Abigail? Do you have an "Abigail" that you are listening to?

## PRAY

"Dear Heavenly Father, I ask that I will truly listen to you this week. Give me the capacity to do good for evil."

## ACT

This week continue to work on de-escalating situations and be intentional in truly listening to what God is saying to you.

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