

THE LIFE OF DAVID

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AFTER  
GOD'S  
HEART

“Playing the Fool”  
1 Samuel 25



**FRANCES  
MCDORMAND**



**WOODY  
HARRELSON**



**SAM  
ROCKWELL**

# THREE BILLBOARDS

OUTSIDE

*Ebbing,*  
MISSOURI

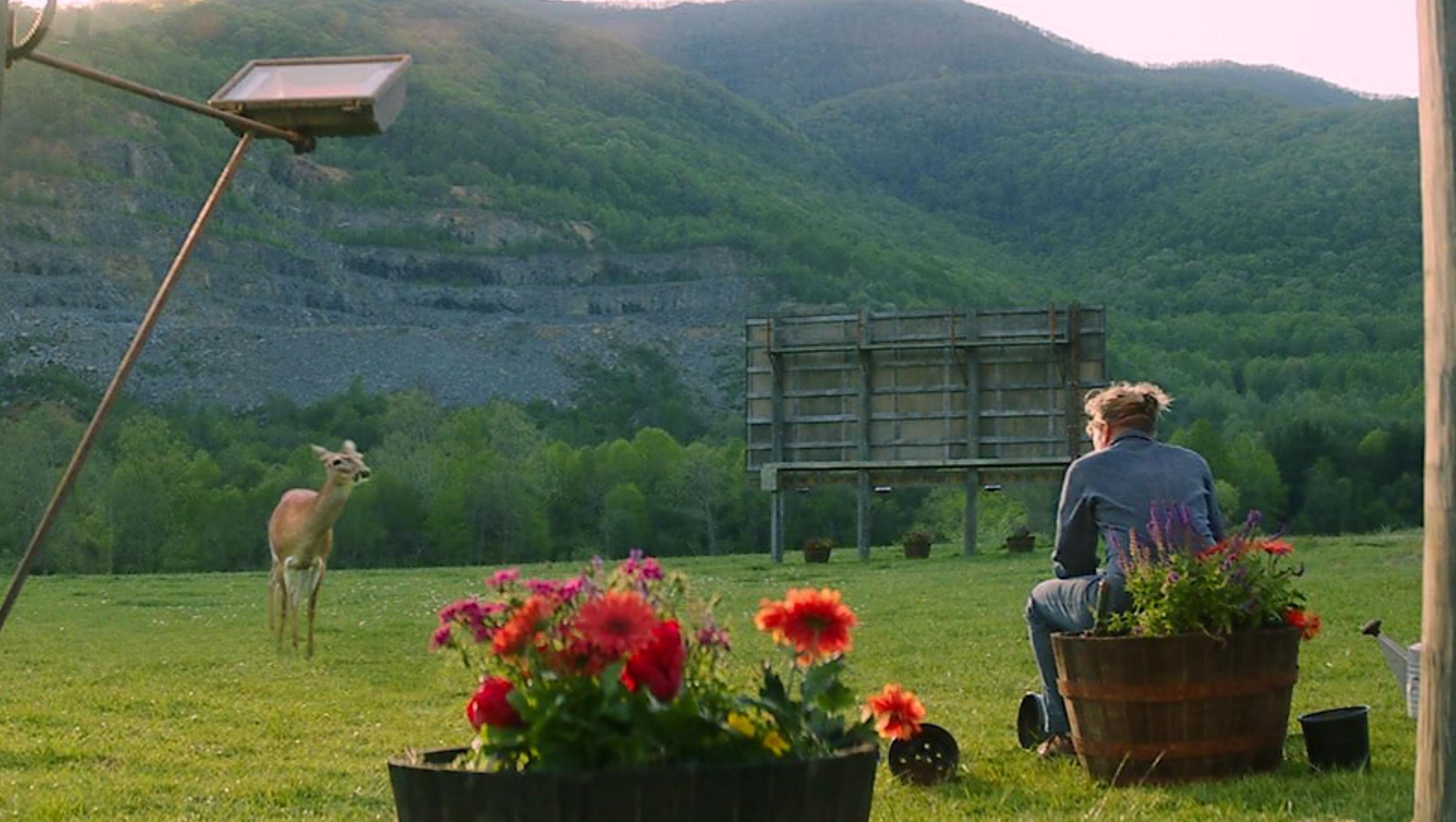


**HOW COME,  
CHIEF WILLOUGHBY?**

**AND STILL  
NO ARRESTS?**









“Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

(Macbeth)



# 1 Samuel 17:36-37

“Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”  
And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”





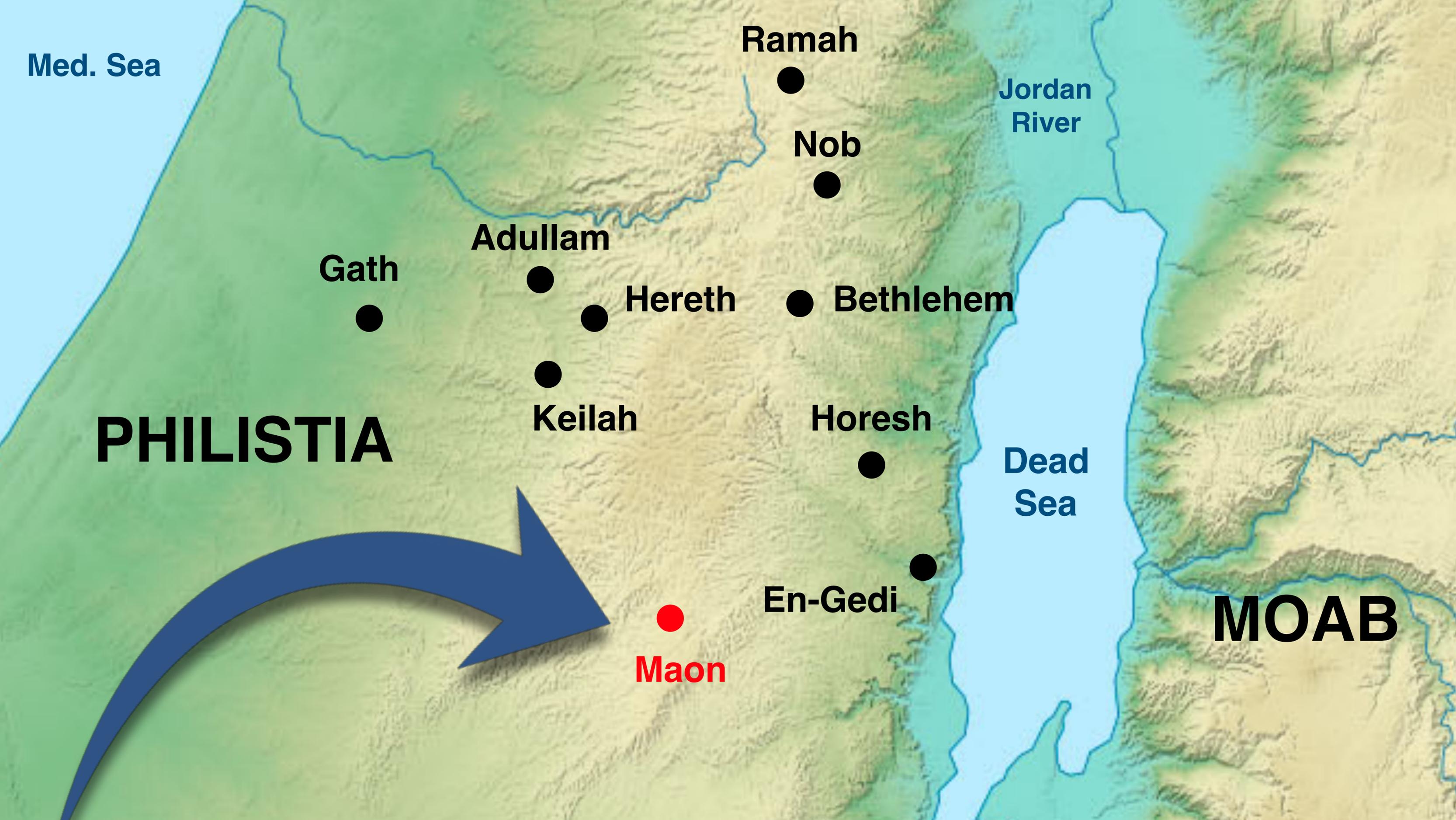
## 1 Samuel 20:1

Then David fled from Natioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?"



# 1 Samuel 25:1

Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.



Med. Sea

Ramah

Jordan River

Nob

Adullam

Gath

Hereth

Bethlehem

PHILISTIA

Keilah

Horesh

Dead Sea

En-Gedi

Maon

MOAB



# 1 Samuel 25:2-3

And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite.

The fool lives life with  
no acknowledgement  
of God in any of his or  
her choices.





## Psalm 14:1-2

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

# Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.





# 1 Samuel 25:10-12

And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this.



# 1 Samuel 25:13

And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.



## 1 Samuel 25:21-22

Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."



# Dale Davis

He does not make the connection between the situations with Saul and Nabal. He does not see the wideness of God's wisdom. Such failure is not unique to David ... Have we not been caught in the same net? Can we not recall times in which we saw God's way quite clearly in some dilemma but missed it completely in a fresh situation when the same principles apply?



“All this anger just begets greater anger.”

Foolishness  
begets greater  
foolishness.







# 1 Samuel 25:14-17

But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. They were a wall to us



## 1 Samuel 25:14-17

both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him."



# 1 Samuel 25:23-31

When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my



# 1 Samuel 25:23-31

lord, whom you sent. Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will



# 1 Samuel 25:23-31

certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has



# 1 Samuel 25:23-31

spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."



# Eugene Peterson

Abigail says, in effect, “Your task, David, is not to exact vengeance; vengeance is God’s business, and you aren’t God. You’re out here in the wilderness to find out what God is doing and who you are before God. The wilderness isn’t an experiment station in which you test yourself and find out how strong and resilient you are. It’s where you discover the strength of God and God’s faithful ways of working in and



# Eugene Peterson

through your life. Nabal is a fool, but don't you also become a fool. One fool is enough in this story. ... David's life is so tangled up in God's work and revelation that there's no way he can extricate himself from it and still be himself. ... His life is formed and conditioned by the tender mercies of God, not the foolish devilries of Nabal.

God often offers us  
the protection of his  
wisdom through the  
counsel of others.





## Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who



# Romans 8:31-39

died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”



# Romans 8:31-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

