

Count your blessings...

For the glory of God, and the spiritual edification of those who read these testimonies

Bearing the Iniquity of others

Whether we are believers or servants of God, as Christians we are called to follow the example of Christ. In particular we see Christ bore our iniquities on the Cross of Calvary. Isa 53:11 says, *"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."*

Even today, whenever we commit iniquity, Jesus intercedes for us, telling our Father to forgive the iniquity because it is not us who have committed it, rather it is Him. This is how Jesus is continually bearing our iniquity having already paid the price of such sins. So are we not compelled to do the same for others while we are on this earth, especially for those who do not know Christ, or commit sin without knowing what they do; it is these people that we need to intercede for before the throne of God, asking Jesus to have mercy on such ones.

In 2nd Samuel Chapter 25, we read of how king David sent messengers to Nabal, but Nabal did not do as the king commanded. However, we see the reaction of Nabal's wife Abigail, to the incident in Verse 28: *"I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days."* Even though it was her husband who had done wrong to the king, she asked the king to forgive **her** for the trespass, as if she had done it to the king! Why did she do this? As the wife, she understood that she needed to bear the iniquity of her husband.

In Verse 3 we read of the characters of both husband and wife: *"Now the name of the man was Nabal; and the name of his wife Abigail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb."* There may be many marriages where the spouse, or parents, or children are not saved. It is the duty of the saved members to intercede for those unsaved members, and bear their iniquity. Even if they do not sin in front of your eyes, they may be doing so outside. We see Job did similarly for his children: Job 1:5 *"And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts."* Thus did Job continually. Just as Job interceded for his children, we need to intercede for our children or grandchildren.

Abigail's understanding revealed a beautiful character in her, which eventually qualified her to later become the king's wife (after Nabal died). Likewise, if we have a character of continually interceding for others, we will also qualify to become the Lamb's wife, the Bride of Christ. Surely the Bride must have the same character as her Bridegroom.

When Moses was in the presence of God pleading for the people, he was willing to lose even his own life for their preservation: *"Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin -; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written."* (Exodus 32:32). He was willing to give up his own salvation for the sake of others. Likewise, Servants of God are called to bear the iniquity found in the church today. They are also called to intercede, bearing their souls in the presence of God, to have mercy and spare the people of God. This part of their ministry is exactly a reflection of the great love that Jesus has for the church. He was willing and gave up His own life that you and I might be delivered from utter destruction due to our sin. When we realise this great unselfish, unconditional love, we will immediately fall down at His feet and obey Him forever!