



**BE STRONG  
& COURAGEOUS**





FOLLOW THE  
**DONKEY**

# STRENGTH & COURAGE



***“Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore, be favorable toward my men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.”***

***1 Samuel 25:7-8***



# THE RESPONSES

## Nabal: Foolishness

*Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"*

**v. 10-11**



# THE RESPONSES

## David: Fighting

*David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. David said to his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" So, they did, and David strapped his on as well. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.*

**v. 12-13**

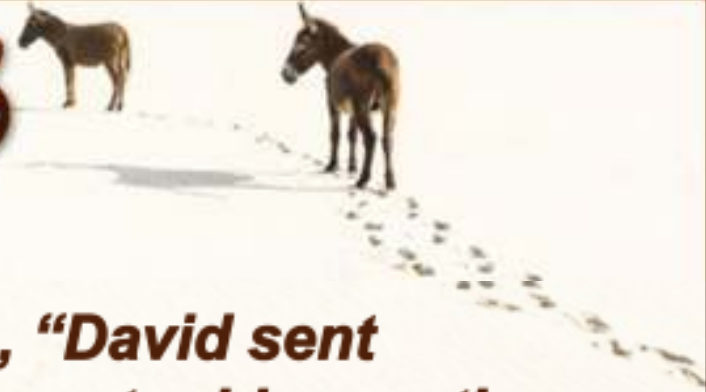


# THE RESPONSES

## Servants: Fearful

*One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers from the wilderness to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. Night and day they were a wall around us the whole time we were herding our sheep near them. Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him."*

v. 14-17



# THE RESPONSES

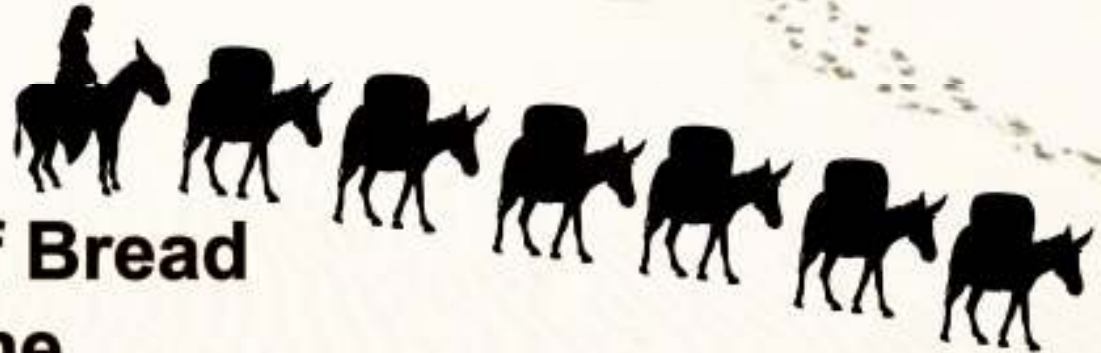
## David: Fighting

*Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs and loaded them on donkeys. Then she told her servants, "Go on ahead; I'll follow you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them.*

v. 18-20



# PARADE OF DONKEYS



**Donkey 1: 200 Loaves of Bread**

**Donkey 2: 2 Skins of Wine**

**Donkey 3: 5 Dressed Sheep**

**Donkey 4: 5 Seahs of Roasted Grain**

**Donkey 5: 100 Cakes of Raisins**

**Donkey 6: 200 Cakes of Pressed Figs**

**Donkey 7: Herself**





# PARADE OF DONKEYS

Was she wrong to do this without her husband's knowledge?

She was a female and by cultural standards what she was doing was outrageous

Was David obligated to relent?

No, he could have rightfully just taken the stuff, killed her and her servants. He could then have gone after Nabal.



# PARADE OF DONKEYS



**Thus, if she succeeds, while her family was saved, she could die, if she fails, she may die. Her actions make her an intercessor and possibly a sacrifice**

**That is why, while the gifts massive and important as they may seem, it is her personal, thought out, courageous plea that made the difference (v. 23-31)**



# **STRONG AND COURAGEOUS PLEA**

**She started with humility:**

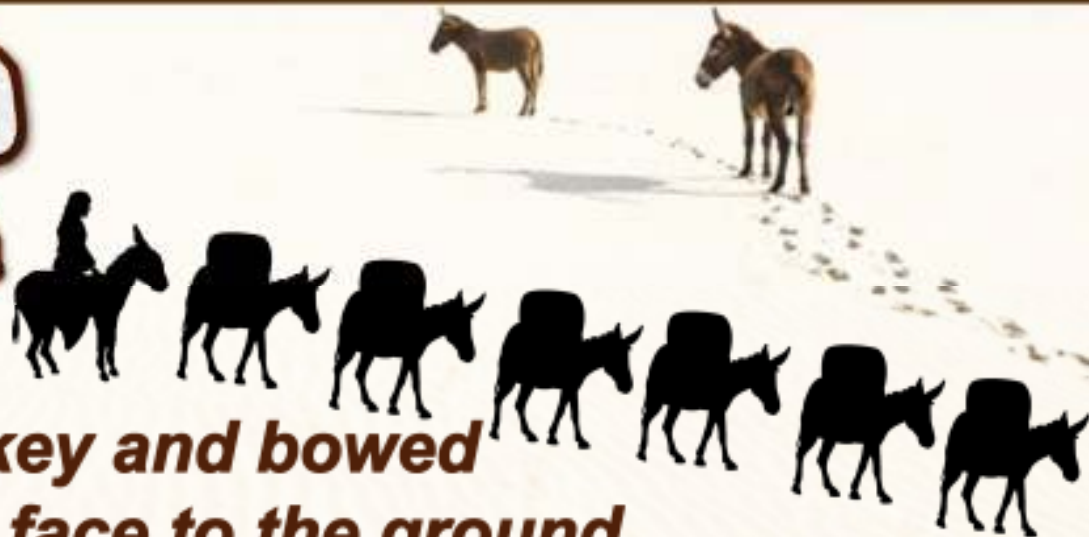
***She quickly got off her donkey and bowed  
down before David with her face to the ground.***

***She fell at his feet***

**She requested mercy**

**She acknowledges David's authority**

**She never calls him by name but references him  
11 times and my lord**



# **STRONG AND COURAGEOUS PLEA**

**Ultimately, she places her  
life not in the hands of David but in the  
hands of David's God**

**A Living God**

**An Eternal God**

**A Protective God**

**A Faithful God**

**A merciful God**



# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



*David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak." Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."*

**v. 32-35**



# IN THE GARDEN

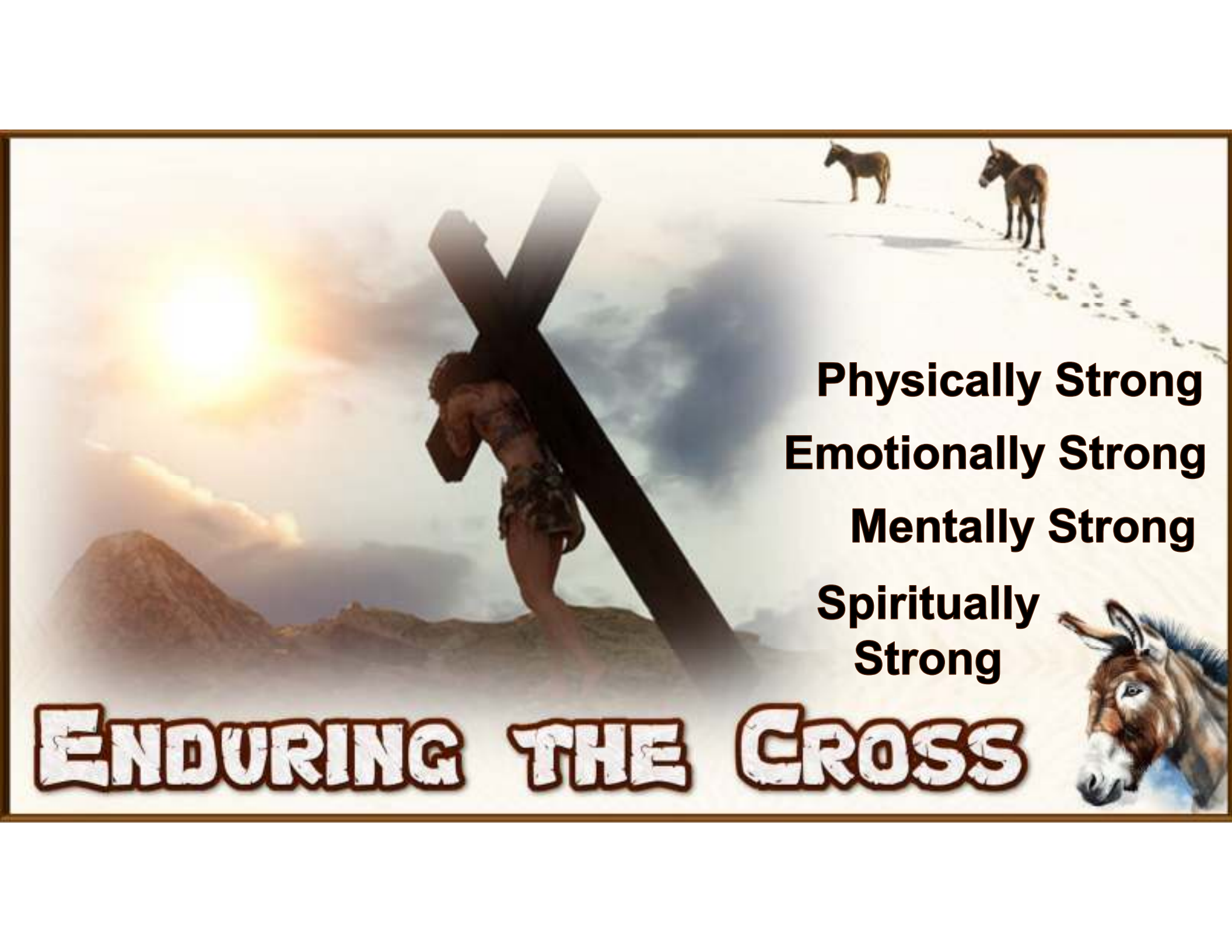


***“My Father,  
if it is not  
possible for this  
cup to be taken  
away unless  
I drink it,  
may your  
will be  
done.”***



**Matthew 26:36 - 46**





**Physically Strong**  
**Emotionally Strong**  
**Mentally Strong**  
**Spiritually Strong**

**ENDURING THE CROSS**



A donkey is standing in a field at sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon. The donkey is dark-colored and is looking towards the left. The text "Follow the DONKEY" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, bold font with a black outline. Below the title, there is a question in a smaller white font with a black outline: "Will we choose to represent our God with Strength and Courage".

# Follow the **DONKEY**

Will we choose to  
represent our God with  
Strength and Courage