

# Our Godly Ancestors

## *1 Samuel 25:1-11*

The name “Nabal” means “fool.” We don’t know why his parents chose to name him “fool,” but his name became an accurate description of his character. Nabal’s flaws are described in 1 Samuel 25:3. First, he was churlish, which means he was harsh, rude, rough, and difficult to deal with. Second, he was evil in his doings. He was one mean, nasty man, who was not very pleasant to be with. He was evil in his dealings with David and God judged him for it (*1 Sam. 25:36-38*).



One interesting fact about this corrupt man is mentioned at the end of 1 Samuel 25:3. Nabal had a godly ancestor. He had descended from Caleb who, along with Joshua, fully followed the Lord. These two men were the only ones of their generation allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Having a godly ancestor does not make a person godly. Having a God-fearing parent does not make the son or daughter God-fearing. Godly men can and often do have ungodly descendants. To be godly, one must have a vibrant relationship with the living God.

Each and every one of us has at least two godly ancestors in our family line: Noah and Enoch. Noah was a just man and a preacher of righteousness (*Gen. 6:9; 2 Pet. 2:5*). Enoch pleased God (*Heb. 11:5-6*). Both men walked with God during difficult times (*Gen. 5:22, 24; 6:9*). Yet, descending from such great men of God does not add anything to our spiritual status. Think of the millions of ungodly men who have also descended from these two men.

A godly man exhibits a God-fearing conduct which can only develop by having a real and right and personal relationship with the Lord God. Enoch and Noah walked with God. We cannot be like them if we fail to do the same.

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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