

A close-up of a marble bust of a man with curly hair, set against a background of cracked, aged parchment. The bust is centered and slightly to the left. The text 'The Godfather' is overlaid on the bust's face.

The Godfather



The Godfather

PARAMOUNT PICTURES presents "THE GODFATHER" An ALBERT S. RUDDY PRODUCTION Starring MARLON BRANDO and AL PACINO JAMES CAAN RICHARD CASTELLANO
ROBERT DUVALL STERLING HAYDEN JOHN MARLEY RICHARD CONTE DIANE KEATON Music Scored by NINO ROTA Screenplay by MARIO PUZO and FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA Based on MARIO PUZO'S Novel "THE GODFATHER"
Produced by ALBERT S. RUDDY Directed by FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA
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"Let others complain that our age is wicked. My complaint is that it's paltry. It lacks passion.

When I'm depressed by this lack of passion, inevitably, I turn my attention to the pages of the OT because there, men are men and women are women. They lie, steal, cheat, kill, and commit adultery"

--Soren Kierkegaard

1 Samuel 24: 3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4 The men said, “**This is the day** the Lord spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.

1 Samuel 25: Now Samuel died...

I Samuel 25: 2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. 3 His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an **intelligent** and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings—he was a Calebite.

Nabal ("fool")

**Mega-millionaire, narcissistic,
corrupt, base, cuts corners, and
ignorant**

Abigail

Intelligent, attractive,
"handsome" (1 S. 16:2),
successful, calculating, and wise

1 Samuel 25: 4 While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. 5 So he sent ten young men and said to them, “Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. 6 Say to him: ‘Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours! 7 “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

1 Samuel 25: Carmel nothing of theirs was missing.

8 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: 9 When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited. 10 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. 11 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?"

1 Samuel 25: 12 David's men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. 13 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.

1 Samuel 25: 14 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. 15 Yet these men were very good to us...

I Samuel 25: 18 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. 19 Then she told her servants, “Go on ahead; I’ll follow you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

1 Samuel 25: 20 As she came **riding her donkey** into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. **21** 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. **22 May God deal with David**, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive **one male of all who belong to him!**”

I Samuel 25: 23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. 24 She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; **hear** what your servant has to say. 25 Please **pay no attention**, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent.

1 Samuel 25: 26 And now, my lord, as surely as the **Lord your God** lives and as you live, since the **Lord** has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. 27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you. 28 “Please forgive your servant’s presumption.

1 Samuel 25: The **Lord your God** will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because you fight the **Lord's** battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live. 29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my lord will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the **Lord your God**, but the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling.

Nabal has brought out the
worst in David. David is
unhinged.

Abigail's Two-Fold Job

1). Help save David's soul.

Abigail's Two-Fold Job

2). Spare the community of
bloodshed.

1 Samuel 25: 30 When the **Lord** has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, **31** my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the **Lord your God** has brought my lord success, remember your servant.”

1 Samuel 25: 32 David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. **33 May you be blessed for your good judgment** and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. **34** 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.”

Who will remind us of who
we're supposed to be as
Christians?

Romans 12: 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "**It is mine to avenge; I will repay,**" says the Lord.

Will you and I listen to Jesus
as David listened to Abigail?

Matthew 5: 43 “You have heard that it was said,
‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I
tell you, **love your enemies and pray for those who
persecute you,** 45 that you may be children of your
Father in heaven.

Psalm 22: 2 My God, I cry out **by day**, but you do not answer, **by night**, but I find no rest.**3** Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises... **30** Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.
31 They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!

A marble bust of a man with curly hair, possibly a classical figure, is centered in the frame. The background is a textured, brownish-gold surface with a network of thin, dark cracks, resembling aged parchment or stone. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the face and hair.

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