

# IN SEARCH OF ABISHAG

<sup>1</sup> When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. <sup>2</sup> So his attendants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.” <sup>3</sup> Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

I Kings 1:1-3

## I. What’s in a name?

\* Abishag - Father of wandering, my father wanders, a hint of dubious parentage.

A. Miss Israel - A national beauty and character contest. Find the super model.

B. They look all over the country to find an impossible combination!

C. She is found in Shunem - in the lower regions of Galilee in the foothills of the mountains of Lebanon in the tribe of Issachar. David had large estates of huge vineyards, spice gardens, and fruit orchards. Vast herds of sheep grazed. All farmed out to tenants. Abishag was a daughter from one of these estates.

D. She lived a 30-hour walk from David’s court, but was destined to serve the king in an intimate way no other woman ever had before, nor ever would again.

## II. Abishag – David’s I:Thou unconventional girl

- A. Old, cold, frail, King David needs someone he can cuddle and implicitly trust in the last and holiest transition moments of his life.
- B. God crowns David’s life at the end with unconditional love from one who adores him.
- C. Everyone misunderstood Abishag’s place. She was an absolute original. Can you bear to be misunderstood like the Virgin Mary was?
- D. Are you willing to be a liminal lynch pin in redemptive history?

## III. Counting the cost / A time for midwives and hospice nurses

\* Abishag had to surrender much to say yes to her intimacy with the king.

- A. Her family was surrendered to the king.
- B. Her freedom was surrendered to the king
- C. Her feelings were surrender to the king.
- D. Her future was surrendered to the king.

## IV. The love of Abishag’s life

- A. She stood before the king. She was everything he needed her to be 24/7.
- B. She cherished the king. No one had ever loved David more.
- C. She had complete access to the king, the greatest custodian of his thoughts and fears.
- D. She slept with him, warming him as no inanimate fire or clothing could.

- E. Blessing by association / She belonged to the greatest circle of safety in David's kingdom. (Bathsheba, Nathan, Zadok, and Beniah)
- F. Will you surrender all to be all the king needs you to be in his service?