1 Samuel 25:1–3
1 Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon.
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, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.

1 Samuel 25:4–9
4 When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep,
5 he sent ten of his young men to Carmel with this message for Nabal:
6 “Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own!
7 I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them.
8 Ask your own men, and they will tell you this is true. So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David.”
9 David’s young men gave this message to Nabal in David’s name, and they waited for a reply.
10 And Nabal answered David’s servants and said, Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who are each breaking away from his master.

11 Shall I then take my bread and my water, and my meat that I have killed for my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they belong?
12 So David’s young men turned away, and came and told him all that was said.

13 And David said to his men, every man gird on his sword. And they did so, and David also girded on his sword; and there went up after David about 400 men, and 200 remained with the baggage.

1 Samuel 25:
14 Meanwhile, one of Nabal’s servants went to Abigail and told her, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them.
15 These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us.
16 In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep.

“You can be an Abigail in the midst of being in an unhappy marriage.

“Marriage is a sucker’s bet.” “If you get married, you will regret it within five years.” “Don’t do it; the man you marry won’t be the same man you bury, because they change over time.”
Such gloomy statements abound in a jaded world filled with marriage skeptics, and many young people are dismayed by such naysaying.

Some may even shy away from pursuing marriage. But all the above statements are bad advice. **Marriage** is just as valid today as it ever was (**Hebrews 13:4**).  

4 Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage....

The above cynical quotations are striking in their inherent selfishness. The advice they encapsulate would have merit only

...if marriage were intended solely to gratify one’s personal desires. But that is not the purpose of marriage.

The marriage vow is not a lifetime commitment to be loved or to receive love.

Marriage is a vow to give love. It is a promise to give love for life.

It is a determination to live for the benefit of the other, to stand by and behind the other.

To give and give and give, and then give some more—even life itself.

**Marriage is about GIVING not TAKING**

Mankind did not invent marriage. God did.

It is not in discovering the most beautiful model or the most dashing knight that a good marriage is found. It’s in recognizing God’s prepared choice of the most suitable life partner—the one most compatible with God’s purposes and objectives—that the most truly satisfying marriage is built. **Romance** surely has its place and will be enjoyed in a
godly marriage, but only as a fruit of a much deeper, stronger relationship.

Yes, the honeymoon will end. Yes, both husband and wife will prove to be somewhat different from what they presented to each other while courting. Yes, sooner or later both spouses will be disappointed in something about one another. And, yes, trials will come, testing the strength of their vows. But none of that changes the fact that God had a good idea when He invented marriage.

One element that the critics of marriage always miss is faith. Marriage and family are God’s institutions for mankind. If a Christian is truly walking with God, truly wanting God’s best for his or her spouse, truly wanting to further God’s plan for himself, for his spouse, and for the world, then he will not abandon the idea of marriage. It’s not about what we get out of marriage. It is not the takers of this world who find fulfillment, but the givers, those who by God’s grace emulate the self-sacrificial giving of Christ, thus growing in His image (Romans 8:28–30; Ephesians 4:20–24). A good marriage will cost everything we have. And, in that giving, we will find the highest meaning of life in Christ.

17 So know this and consider what you will do, for evil is determined against our master and all his house. For he is such a wicked man that one cannot speak to him.
1 Samuel 25:
18 Abigail lost no time. 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.

Proverbs 20:3
3 Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor; only fools insist on quarreling.

Proverbs 10:12
12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.

Proverbs 17:14
14 The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.

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 desert 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!”

1 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: “My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.

Chuck Swindoll: I’m impressed with her integrity. She choose to protect her husband (and family), not because he deserved it, not because he was good, but because she was good. Despite how bad a husband he had been, she chose to remain honorable in her role as his partner...even when he was not present”

1 Samuel 25:25
25 I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don’t pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.

1 Samuel 25:26–27
26 “Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal.”
27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you.

1 Samuel 25:28
28 Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The LORD will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the LORD’s battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life.

1 Samuel 25:29
29 “Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the LORD your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling!

1 Samuel 25:
30 When the LORD has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel,
31 don’t let this be a blemish on your record. Then your conscience won’t have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the LORD has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!”
Romans 12:18–19
18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

1 Samuel 25:32–35
32 David replied to Abigail, “Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today!
33 Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands.
34 For I swear by the LORD, the God of Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal’s men would still be alive tomorrow morning.”
35 Then David accepted her present and told her, “Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband.”
1 Samuel 25:36
36 When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal was throwing a big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn’t tell him anything about her meeting with David until dawn the next day.

Wisdom is watching our words and waiting for the right time.

1 Samuel 25:37
37 In the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him what had happened.

As a result he had a stroke, and he lay paralyzed on his bed like a stone.

38 About ten days later, the Lord struck him, and he died.

1 Samuel 25:39–40
39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise the Lord, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin.” Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife.

40 When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, “David has sent us to take you back to marry him.”

Trust in God to handle things for her.
41 And she arose and bowed herself to the earth and said, Behold, let your handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

42 And Abigail hastened and arose and rode on a donkey, with five of her maids who followed her, and she went after the messengers of David and became his wife.

1 Corinthians 7:13
13 And if a believing woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him.
16 Don’t you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you? And don’t you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you?
Prov. 31:10-12 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

The key – take serious your commitment.
Stay focused on being a follower of Jesus.

People look for reasons to LEAVE instead of looking for reasons to STAY.

God can restore ANYTHING.

RejoiceMinistries.org
Zig Ziglar
"I have no way of knowing whether or not you married the wrong person, but I do know that many people have a lot of wrong ideas about marriage and what it takes to make that marriage happy and successful.

I'll be the first to admit that it's possible that you did marry the wrong person. However, if you treat the wrong person like the right person, you could well end up having married the right person after all.

On the other hand, if you marry the right person, and treat that person like the wrong person, you certainly will have ended up marrying the wrong person.

I also know that it is far more important to be the right kind of person than it is to marry the right person.

In short, whether you married the right or wrong person is primarily up to you."