

2 Samuel 19:1-8 David's Mourning and the Morale of the Troops

¹ Joab was told, "The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."

² And for the whole army the victory that day was turned into mourning, because on that day the troops heard it said, "The king is grieving for his son."

³ The men stole into the city that day as men steal in who are ashamed when they flee from battle.

⁴ The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵ Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have humiliated all your men, who have just saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters and the lives of your wives and concubines.

⁶ You love those who hate you and hate those who love you. You have made it clear today that the commanders and their men mean nothing to you. I see that you would be pleased if Absalom were alive today and all of us were dead.

⁷ Now go out and encourage your men. I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will be left with you by nightfall. This will be worse for you than all the calamities that have come upon you from your youth till now."

⁸ So the king got up and took his seat in the gateway. When the men were told, "The king is sitting in the gateway," they all came before him.

QUESTIONS

1. Was David wrong to mourn?
2. Was Joab wrong to scold him?

3. Do we sometimes allow our emotions to overwhelm us?
4. How can our personal feelings cause us to be inconsiderate to others?

2 Samuel 19:9-15

David returns to Judah

Meanwhile, the Israelites had fled to their homes.

^{2Sa 19:9} Throughout the tribes of Israel, the people were all arguing with each other, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies; he is the one who rescued us from the hand of the Philistines. But now he has fled the country because of Absalom;

^{2Sa 19:10} and Absalom, whom we anointed to rule over us, has died in battle. So why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?"

^{2Sa 19:11} King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests: "Ask the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his palace, since what is being said throughout Israel has reached the king at his quarters?"

^{2Sa 19:12} You are my brothers, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to bring back the king?"

^{2Sa 19:13} And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my own flesh and blood? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if from now on you are not the commander of my army in place of Joab.'

^{2Sa 19:14} He won over the hearts of all the men of Judah as though they were one man. They sent word to the king, "Return, you and all your men."

^{2Sa 19:15} Then the king returned and went as far as the Jordan. Now the men of Judah had come to Gilgal to go out and meet the king and bring him across the Jordan.

QUESTIONS

1. What might have been some of the peoples' hesitations in accepting David back as king?
2. Read Ruth 4:12, 18-22. On what basis did David appeal to Judah as "brother?"
3. Why was Joab replaced?
4. What might you be tempted to do in way of retaliation if you were David?

2 Samuel 19:16-43

Three responses to David and his return

¹⁶ Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷ With him were a thousand Benjamites, along with Ziba, the steward of Saul's household, and his fifteen sons and twenty servants. They rushed to the Jordan, where the king was.

¹⁸ They crossed at the ford to take the king's household over and to do whatever he wished. When Shimei son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he fell prostrate before the king

¹⁹ and said to him, "May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind.

²⁰ For I your servant know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first of the whole house of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king."

²¹ Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this? He cursed the LORD'S anointed."

²² David replied, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? This day you have become my adversaries! Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"

²³ So the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king promised him on oath.

²⁴ Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, also went down to meet the king. He had not taken care of his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely.

²⁵ When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, "Why didn't you go with me, Mephibosheth?"

²⁶ He said, "My lord the king, since I your servant am lame, I said, 'I will have my donkey saddled and will ride on it, so I can go with the king.' But Ziba my servant betrayed me.

²⁷ And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king. My lord the king is like an angel of God; so do whatever pleases you.

²⁸ All my grandfather's descendants deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place among those who eat at your table. So what right do I have to make any more appeals to the king?"

²⁹ The king said to him, "Why say more? I order you and Ziba to divide the fields."

³⁰ Mephibosheth said to the king, "Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has arrived home safely."

³¹ Barzillai the Gileadite also came down from Rogelim to cross the Jordan with the king and to send him on his way from there.

³² Now Barzillai was a very old man, eighty years of age. He had provided for the king during his stay in Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.

³³ The king said to Barzillai, "Cross over with me and stay with me in Jerusalem, and I will provide for you."

³⁴ But Barzillai answered the king, "How many more years will I live, that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king?"

³⁵ I am now eighty years old. Can I tell the difference between what is good and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats and drinks? Can I still hear the voices of men and women singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?"

³⁶ Your servant will cross over the Jordan with the king for a short distance, but why should the king reward me in this way?"

³⁷ Let your servant return, that I may die in my own town near the tomb of my father and mother. But here is your servant Kimham. Let him cross over with my lord the king. Do for him whatever pleases you."

³⁸ The king said, "Kimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him whatever pleases you. And anything you desire from me I will do for you."

³⁹ So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed over. The king kissed Barzillai and gave him his blessing, and Barzillai returned to his home.

⁴⁰ When the king crossed over to Gilgal, Kimham crossed with him. All the troops of Judah and half the troops of Israel had taken the king over.

⁴¹ Soon all the men of Israel were coming to the king and saying to him, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, steal the king away and bring him and his household across the Jordan, together with all his men?"

⁴² All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "We did this because the king is closely related to us. Why are you angry about it? Have we eaten any of the king's provisions? Have we taken anything for ourselves?"

⁴³ Then the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king; and besides, we have a greater claim on David than you have. So why do you treat us with contempt? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?" But the men of Judah responded even more harshly than the men of Israel.

QUESTIONS

1. What were the responses of Shimei, Mephiboseth, and Barzillai?

APPLICATION God is in ultimate control and the faithful will be cared for. Are kindness to others is a sign of our faithfulness. How will you choose to live?

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON April 11th, 2010

Restoration

Focal Passage: 2 Samuel 19

Cross References: Ruth 4:12,18-22, 2 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 18,

Central Idea: The up and down nature of life is something that David was well acquainted with. He was prophesied to be king during the rule of Saul, his life was threatened by Saul, he became king, and now his own son has taken the throne away from him. Following the death of his son he is called upon to lead through the prompting of Joab his closest adviser. God gives him a heart of compassion for people and restores him to the throne.

Lesson Idea: The roller coaster image of life is all too familiar for many of us. We are not called to the easy road. We are called to trust God, remain faithful, and show his kindness to everyone we come into contact with.

Historical Context: Tamar was Absalom's sister and was killed by Amnon. To get justice, Absalom bided his time and took advantage of being away from the House of David and killed Amnon. Absalom then fled Jerusalem and amassed for himself some horses and chariots. David mourned the loss of Amnon and the desertion of Absalom. Joab had Absalom brought back to Jerusalem but withheld him from the King. Absalom cleverly gained a following and usurped David's throne. In battle Joab kills Absalom causing David to

mourn deeply. Joab and the rest of the army hear of David's mourning while still fighting on the front lines.

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

April 4th – April 11, 2010

Apr. 4	2 Sam. 12-13
Apr. 5	2 Sam. 14-16
Apr. 6	2 Sam. 17-19
Apr. 7	2 Sam. 20-22
Apr. 8	2 Sam. 23-24
Apr. 9	1 Kings 1-2
Apr. 10	1 Kings 3-5
Apr. 11	1 Kings 6-7

Read the Bible Through Highlights of the Week:

April 4th – April 11th, 2010

2 Samuel 14 Absalom returns to Jerusalem and assumes the throne.

2 Samuel 15-16 David flees Jerusalem

2 Samuel 18 The death of Absalom

2 Samuel 20 Sheba rebels

2 Samuel 23 David's last words
1 Kings 1 Adonijah sets himself as the king and Solomon is made king by David

1 Kings 3 Solomon asks for Wisdom

1 Kings 6 Solomon dedicates the Temple