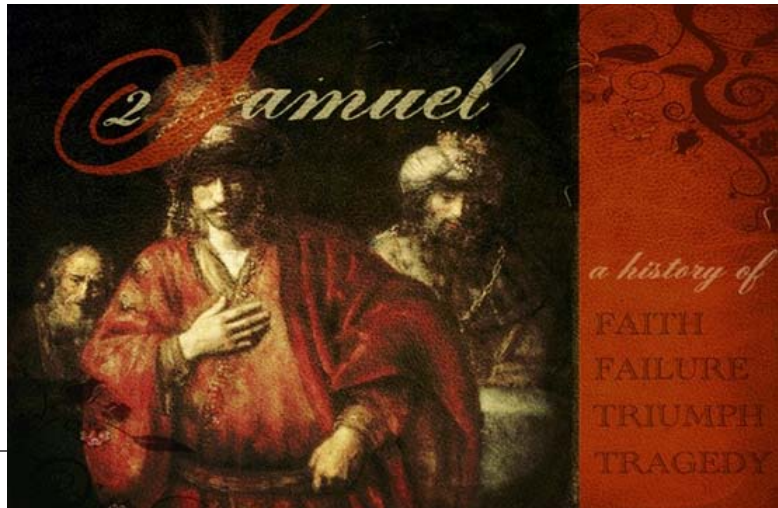


2 Samuel 16:1-14
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Related Topics: David; Absalom; Ziba;
Shimei; Abishai; Responding to Ridicule;
Rebellion; Conformed to Jesus

We left off last week with king David headed towards the wilderness and his treacherous son Absalom entering Jerusalem to assume the throne of Israel.



2 Samuel 16:1-2 1When David had passed a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, bearing two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine. 2And the king said to Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who faint in the wilderness to drink."

QUESTION: Who is this Ziba?

Ziba is the servant of Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was the crippled son of Jonathan to whom David showed great kindness to back in 2 Samuel 9. Ziba appears to be a loyal man offering help in David's moment of great need.

2 Samuel 16:3 3And the king said, "And where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he remains in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father.'"

OBSERVATION:

Ziba tells David that Mephibosheth longed to see the throne of Israel restored to the family of Saul and that Mephibosheth was in Jerusalem, waiting to come to power after David and Absalom ruined each other.

2 Samuel 16:4 4Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." And Ziba said, "I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king."

Quote: John Trapp

"A shameless and senseless slander, uttered by a false and faithless sycophant."

Reality:

Ziba lied to David and this will be revealed in 2 Samuel 19:24-30. In fact, Ziba left the crippled Mephibosheth

behind to make it look like Mephibosheth did not support David.

NOTE WELL:

Ziba paints a picture of Mephibosheth that makes him out to be an ungrateful and disloyal man who was in his heart no different than just like Absalom. Ziba's lie was in part to make himself look like the loyal, selfless citizen, and thus gain favor with David.

RADICAL:

Ziba deliberately told this slanderous lie about Mephibosheth because he knew that David would be so emotionally raw and vulnerable in the face of the heartbreaking betrayal he was experiencing at the hands of Absalom. At a time of personal crisis and betrayal the last thing you need to hear is that someone else you have loved has turned against you.

QUOTE: G. Campbell Morgan

Ziba "was utterly despicable, and the more so because at the moment the sorrow he brought to the heart of David was his feeling that his kindness toward Mephibosheth was ill requited."

2 Samuel 15:4 4 Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours."

DON'T MISS THIS — Ziba wickedly used David's crisis for his own benefit. Ziba operated on the premise that David and the lives of those dear to him were in grave danger running for their lives. He knew that the logistical circumstances coupled with David's emotional state would leave David virtually incapable of examining the accusations Ziba made against Mephibosheth. In this very moment it would be natural for David to act on first impressions

At first look, Ziba's arrival and gift would encourage everybody, be seen as a token for good. It would be easy for David and everyone with him to say, WOW, at least someone is loyal and helpful and on top of that he's even from the household of Saul. As a result, (4Then) David not only welcomed Ziba, but rewarded Ziba not just as loyal, but heroically loyal! That is what Ziba wanted all along!

Shame on Ziba! But let's consider David for a moment. No one in this room can stand and point the finger at David and condemn David for responding the way he did because that is how any one here has or will process such things in the face of a crisis. But though we can't condemn David, we can't condone his behavior either. Concerning believing the report about Mephibosheth:

Proverbs 18:13 KJV He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

As a result we don't think about checking out the other side of the story. We begin to operate on emotion and feelings. That is why we need our brothers and sisters in Christ

Ecc. 4:9-12 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Even if David was at that moment incapable of questioning the statement, he needed someone around him who would say wait a minute.

2 Samuel 16:5-8 5 When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. 6 And he

threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! 8The Lord has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood."

- FIRST, this guy is a DISTANT relative of the former king Saul. He was a man who resented David for replacing the dynasty of Saul.
- SECOND, his name comes from the Hebrew word that means Hearer of reports. This hearer of reports had heard that David was on the run from his own son.

KEY OBSERVATION:

What did he do to David in the midst of such a difficult time?

- VERSE 5 - As he came he cursed continually.
- VERSE 6 - He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David
- VERSES 7-8 - He began to give his interpretation of why David was in such trouble. You are paying the price for overthrowing Saul. You are a bloody man, and now YOU are being overthrown.

NOTE: This was a bitter man's perception of David's devastating situation. The outward appearance of things seemed to confirm Shimei's analysis. However, none of this came upon David because of what he did to Saul or Saul's family. Shimei was wrong because David actually treated Saul and his family with great love and graciousness. Shimei was wrong because David was not a bloodthirsty man who overthrew Saul. We know from our study of 1 Samuel that the opposite was true.

David had opportunities to kill Saul

1 Sam. 24:9-10 And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? 10Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you.

The truth is irrelevant to those who harbor bitterness. Shimei was wrong because David did not bring Saul and his family to ruin. Saul himself brought the family to ruin.

SO IT IS TODAY. There are still Shimeis who are quick to hear a report and run with it on the basis of their own prejudiced feelings and then begin to hurl stones and insults.

Shimei was right that the Lord had brought this upon David, but not for any of the reasons Shimei thought. Not to judge or punish, but to humble David and shape his heart.

As Shimei was hurling stones and insults, we read:

2 Samuel 16:9 9Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head."

Did Abishai have the RIGHT to say this?

Ex.22:28 "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

Eccl. 10:20 Even in your thought, do not curse the king,

Abishai had a right to make the statement, but check out David's response:

2 Samuel 16:10 10But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah?"

Why did David say that? Abishai had spent a lot of time with David. He was with David in the wilderness of Ziph (1 Samuel 26)

It was there in the wilderness of Ziph that Saul was chasing David to kill him. One night, Abishai volunteered to go down with David into Saul's camp. The two of them came upon Saul while he was sleeping

1 Samuel 26:8 8Then said Abishai to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice."

David said, NO.... he is the lord's anointed vessel.

KEY POINT:

Abishai is aware of David's character. Yet again, when David is threatened and cursed Abishai wants to lop off the head of Shimei. That is why David said, "What am I going to do with you."

2 Samuel 16:10-14 10If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, "Curse David," who then shall say, "Why have you done so?" 11And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. 12It may be that the Lord will look on the wrong done to me, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today." 13So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. 14And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan.

NOTE WELL:

Though David acted impetuously and unwisely in believing Ziba's lies he was not a complete spiritual wreck! (He was a good tree!)

THERE ARE THREE THINGS FOR US TO TAKE TO HEART IN DAVID'S RESPONSE TO SHIMEI

1.) He looked above and saw God's hand. VERSE 10 – Don't you see Abishai, the Lord has allowed this to take place. David had come to know that the Lord was in all things. He wasn't always like this.

EXAMPLE: When David ran into a foolish man named Nabal (1 Sam. 25). David asked Nabal for some food and supplies for his troops and Nabal said, "Who is this David, but a rebel?" When David heard that Nabal had insulted him, he told his men, "Put on your swords men" When Nabal's wife (Abigail) heard that David was after Nabal, she said, "David, please forgive my husband, his name means fool and that is exactly what he is." Earlier David was a fighter when insulted.

Now he is mature. He has deepened and he is now governed and moved by something other than the winds of adversity or insults.

ILLUSTRATION:

Sailors in the northern oceans have frequently observed icebergs moving against the wind. The explanation is that the iceberg, with nine tenths of it's mass below the water, was caught in the grip of strong currents that moved them in a certain direction no matter which way the winds raged.

This is the mark of maturity in our faith, no matter how hard or harsh the insults and put downs, the man or woman who has a depth of living in the currents of God's grace will always respond and move in the right direction, in a direction that goes against the natural impulses of the mind and heart.

BIG IDEA:

We must realize something at the very first, there is not one insult that can come against us unless the Lord allows it.

In Job 1 we are told that Satan could only touch Job by God's permission

We are in Christ. The Lord allows us to experience put downs not to destroy us, but rather to develop us. You can learn from criticism.

QUOTE: Many Christians are more willing to be destroyed by praise than to be saved by criticism.

I have seen that to be so true in my own life and in others. It is so easy to respond to criticism with, "That's just your opinion" or "I don't want to hear from you, I'll just listen to the Lord" There are those who surround themselves with sycophants, Yes men. Then they launch out into the ministry. The faults that they never wanted to hear about will end up being their destruction. They are willing to march off to their death to the applause of men more than hearing a criticism that the Lord has allowed to surface.

QUESTION: Are you and I convinced that when we are being put down that God is allowing it because there is something for you to learn?

Are YOU embracing it as from above?

2.) He not only looked above, he looked about and saw his own blunders

2 Samuel 16:11 11"Look around me Abishai.... My son Absalom wants to kill me..... I have failed with my own son..... How much more should this Benjamite put me down?"

David had allowed rape (Amnon raped Tamar) and murder (Absalom had Amnon killed) and bitterness (He refused to see Absalom for 5 years) to exist in his family.

When someone puts you down, take a look around at the mistakes that you have made. However brutal the put down is that is coming at you, it is not nearly as bad as you deserve. If you are really honest, then you will realize that you deserve a lot worse than some Shimei's throwing at you! What if every one of your thoughts of this past week, every unheard word that you spoke, every attitude of your heart, every ungodly action was made public tonight on the screens? There is not one of us who wouldn't just want to die.

Here is how we can deal with the Shimeis of our life.

Rom. 7:18 18For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.

When you realize that there is no good thing in your flesh, you no longer seek to defend your flesh or protect your flesh. You're free from the need to retaliate!

3.) He not only looked above and then he looked around and saw his own blunders, he looked ahead.

David knew that if he did what was right in the present moment, God would take care of the future.

2 Samuel 16:12 12He was looking ahead to the reward that was coming because he was quietly taking these put downs

God not only rewards us for our service for Him and to Him, he also rewards us for quietly enduring in suffering.

Matt. 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil

against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Three simple things to do when people put you down:

- LOOK ABOVE (realize that God allowed it)
- LOOK ABOUT (Realize your blunders and you won't be so hard on the Shimeis)
- LOOK AHEAD (God sees and will reward in an appropriate time)

A WORD ABOUT SHIMEI — because there is no doubt a bit of Shimei in each of us and some are full blown replicas of him.

Lets take a look and see what happened to Shimei. In verse 13, note the order, at first he threw stones and then hurled insult, but then he cast dust. Casting dust was the way a man would say, "I wish you were dead." He went from casting insults to wishing David were dead.

That is exactly what happens when you are a Shimei. You throw stones and insults until eventually it eats at you and wish the person was dead. That is why we are not to give place to wrath and not let the root of bitterness take hold.

QUESTION: Do you think that Shimei was a happy guy? Do you think he was the kind of guy you wanted to have an machiato at Bloom with? Do you think that he was the kind of guy you invited to parties? No, there is something about stone throwers and dirt throwers that is ugly.

NOTE: When you throw dirt, it blows back in your face. Look at his end:

2 Samuel 19:19b-20 "Let not my lord hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. Do not let the king take it to heart. 20For your servant knows that I have sinned.

2 Samuel 19:21-23 21Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" 22But David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should this day be as an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?" 23And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath.

I know who I am... This guy doesn't make me insecure. David forgave Shimei.

Does this CHANGE Shimei at all?

David's LAST words to Solomon were — "Bury Shimei"

1 Kings 2:1-3; 8-10. WHY? Shimei had not changed at all. David recognized him to be a threat to Solomon.

Is it at all possible that you are like a Shimei? Do you find yourself wrongly viewing someone else's situation because your view of them is distorted by bitterness? Hurling insults and casting dirt? If so, you will find yourself becoming an increasingly bitter person. If you are critical of your spouse or your brothers in Christ, then repent

CLOSING:

We constantly say at Metro, "It's All About Jesus." To really find victory in all of this we must look afresh at Jesus

1 Peter 2:21-25 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the

tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Jesus was without sin. You and I can't say that of ourselves. Yet, He was put down. Jesus experienced put downs. Yet he never answered back in malice.

QUOTE: We may regret much of our SPEECH, but we will NEVER regret timely SILENCE

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: But he that refrains his lips is wise

James 1:19 Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath

Jesus was SLOW to speak. He died, not defending Himself, not defending His reputation or His ministry. He said, "Father forgive them." You can throw stones and hurl insults and cast dirt at a corpse, but it will not retaliate. If you are retaliating in response to to put downs, then you are not dead yet

We are to reckon ourselves to be Dead and buried with Christ.

- "But Richard, if I don't defend myself....then my reputation will be shot" - DIE
- "But Richard, if I don't stand up for my rights, then my ministry will be ruined" - DIE

The secret of life is death. The world does not understand that when you die to reputation, the pressure is off.

Quote: Bob Dylan – The Disease of Conceit

There's a whole lot of people suffering tonight From the disease of conceit, Whole lot of people struggling tonight From the disease of conceit. Comes right down the highway, Straight down the line, Rips into your senses Through your body and your mind. Nothing about it that's sweet, The disease of conceit.

There's a whole lot of hearts breaking tonight From the disease of conceit, Whole lot of hearts shaking tonight From the disease of conceit. Steps into your room, Eats your soul, Over your senses You have no control. Ain't nothing too discreet About of disease of conceit.

There's a whole lot of people dying tonight From the disease of conceit, Whole lot of people crying tonight From the disease of conceit, Comes right out of nowhere And you're down for the count From the outside world, The pressure will mount, Turn you into a piece of meat, The disease of conceit.

Conceit is a disease That the doctors got no cure They've done a lot of research on it But what it is, they're still not sure

There's a whole lot of people in trouble tonight From the disease of conceit, Whole lot of people seeing double tonight From the disease of conceit, Give ya delusions of grandeur And a evil eye Give you idea that You're too good to die, Then they bury you from your head to your feet From the disease of conceit.

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When you finally say, "I am crucified with Christ," it is then that you don't have to defend yourself or protect yourself and you are finally alive. The secret is to get your eyes off yourself and get your eyes on Christ.

Matt. 10:39 He that keeps his life will lose it; and he that loses his life for My sake shall find it (Aorist tense - Action completed in the past, with present continuing results)

Do you find yourself LOST today? It is because you have not lost your life for Christ's sake. You are still complaining about how you are being treated. The Spirit filled life is not one of emotional gratification. It is in a real sense one of self extermination. It is the end of self. That is not a one time thing. It is a daily experience (Matt 10:39).

CONCLUSION:

When people put you down, remember what David did:

Look above – look about – look ahead

Make sure that you are not a Shimei. Look afresh at Christ.

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