

2 Samuel 16

Background: David has gone through what I see as a three steps process in his restoration journey and relationship with God. As we observed in the previous chapter, David:

Step 1 – Be humble. David and his people ascend Mount Olivet. They are crying and David is barefoot as a sign of great humility (2 Sam 15:30). David recognizes his need for God’s help.

Step 2 – Repent. David is humble and his head is covered. This is clearly a sign of submission and repentance. He has turned around from the throne to a humble ascent up the Mount.

Step 3 – New Hope/New Life. When David reached the top of the Mount, he worships God. He doesn’t let his bad state of affairs, his loss, or the judgment he was facing keep him from worshipping and placing his hope in the Lord.

2 Samuel 16:1-4

And when David was a little past the top of the hill, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and an hundred bunches of raisins, and an hundred of summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

²And the king said unto Ziba, What meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, The asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

³And the king said, And where is thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, to day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my father.

⁴Then said the king to Ziba, Behold, thine are all that pertained unto Mephibosheth. And Ziba said, I humbly beseech thee that I may find grace in thy sight, my lord, O king.

Verse 1 – Just past the top of the Mount, David experiences a sort of Level 4 result when Ziba arrives with some supplies. The next step in the plan the filling of the Holy Spirit. Here we see David being physically refreshed and filled. However, at this fourth step we should be led by the Holy Spirit in

decision making rather than the flesh. David will soon make a hasty flesh inspired decision pertaining to Ziba. Here Ziba looks like he wants to help the King. He appears to be noble.

Verse 2 – David asks a question. Why are you doing this or what do you mean by these gifts? It is a good question to determine the motivation and spirit behind the gifts. However, Ziba’s response is to explain what the items are intended to be used for. I’m sure David could have figured out how to use and distribute the gifts but it doesn’t seem Ziba really answers the question as to why he is doing it. If Ziba had answered this question truthfully, David would have discovered these gifts were really designed to throw him off. Ziba was more concerned about himself than David.

- David will not discover this until later in 2 Samuel Chapter 19. If there is an application for today, you still have Ziba’s who perform acts of charity but the motivation for doing such is designed to line their own pockets and/or serve their own selfish needs. You may not determine this without the discernment of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 3 – David asks where is the guy that you work for? Now what seems to be a good deed ends in a lie. Ziba lies on Mephibosheth his boss. He gives the appearance that his boss is against David. We won’t find this out until later in the story.

Verse 4 – Here is where David makes a mistake. David is too hasty and blesses Ziba based upon his gift and his report. The mistake is he never asked God and never got a real answer from Ziba to his question. Application for Today – in the Kingdom....be careful making a rush judgment just because someone does something nice for you. Find out the reason why first and their motivation for helping you.

- He was experiencing a Level 4 experience but not using proper discernment in his decision making. Application for Today – regardless of how deep your relationship is with God, never make decisions based upon emotions and logic alone. The power of the Holy Spirit will help you make decisions which glorify God.

2 Samuel 16:5-8

⁵And when King David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. ⁶And he cast 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 thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

⁸The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of

Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.

Verse 5 – David arrives at a city in Benjamin and Shimei shows up and curses him. Didn't stop at one curse....as he was approaching....he kept cursing. Perhaps he held contempt for David since he was from Saul's tribe who was the former king.

- First attack against David since reaching Mount Olivet is wrapped around compliments and flattery...David wasn't ready for this one. But he is ready and expecting the second attack....rejection and curses.

Verse 6 – Shimei throws rocks at David but also at the people who are with him. When you are rolling with the King.....some folks will attack you because you are doing right. Part of Kingdom living down here is you might suffer some attacks because you are following the true King....Jesus Christ! Count it all joy when you suffer persecution for righteousness.

Even though Shimei is throwing rocks, David is still protected by his servants who are surrounding him on both sides. Two points here, first, if you follow and serve the King, you may face some rock throwing as well. Just because you are a believer and servant of the King, doesn't mean you won't face difficulties and attacks from others. However, the good news is none of these rocks took David or his people out. Second, it is an awesome ministry when the servants of God protect a righteous leader. Let me emphasize a "righteous" leader. When the leader is worship more than or instead of the Father....that is a perversion of the truth and damages the Kingdom.

Verse 7 – Shimei's curse includes calling David a bloody man. He claims David is getting what he deserved.

- He puts God in it. Says God is the reason for delivering the kingdom from him. Be careful with such accusations since just because they invoke the name of God doesn't mean that it is true. Only part of what he says is true. He was never against Saul, he helped to spare Saul. But the rebellion of Absalom related to David's behavior was correct.

2 Samuel 16:9-12

⁹ Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

¹⁰ And the king said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD hath said unto him, Curse David. Who shall then say, Wherefore hast thou done so? ¹¹ And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more

now may this Benjamite do it? Let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

¹²It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

Verse 9 - Abishai offers to help. He knows this is wrong and asks permission to go over and lift off Shimei's head. Ever want to do that for a friend in trouble? This is the same guy that wanted to stick it to Saul for him.

- I still have some Abishai in me where I have to be careful reacting in the flesh rather than the Spirit when others hurt my friends or loved ones.
- Application for Today: There are still followers and servants of Christ the King who will take your head if you attack what they love or follow. Peter took off an ear in the garden. In Luke 9:51-56 the Sons of Thunder are mentioned.
 - I have too often seen Christians become overly defensive of their church, their pastor, etc. This can often be a carnal response rather than a spiritual response which could bring God more glory than taking off heads. I'm just saying, operate in the Spirit rather than your emotions.

Verse 10 – David's humble response....let him curse because God has allowed him to do so. If God allows it, then no one should question it. The Old Testament Law addressed cursing leaders (Ex 22:28).

Verses 11-12 – David's perspective is a lot worse has happened today than just this guy cursing me out. David's viewpoint is in effect saying, "My own son is trying to kill me and we are tripping over this guy cursing me out. I ain't got time to trip over this...let him curse. It just might be that God will see the injustice, see how I've been done wrong and the trouble I'm in and be merciful to me."

- Application: Wait, I think David just said if they cuss me out today and God sees me reacting the right way....He might bless me because of what I just had to put up with. We see this in Matthew 5:10-12 where following the steps of the beatitudes and having the right attitude (these steps follow the same sequence of the feasts, see my book, Step by Step) can lead to persecution. So don't think it strange if you are doing the right things and in right relationship with God, and persecution or a bad time hits. It is often part of the process and a larger blessing and revelation follows. God will show up to deliver (Level or Step 6 of the process/feast).
- David doesn't dictate or bargain with God but instead accepts whatever the will of God is.
- Notice another important point here. David expands the conversation to not just Abishai but to all of his servants following him.
 - Application for Today: David is teaching his servants who are following him the proper way to deal with adversity. Likewise today, we should be following the example of our

King (Jesus) who shows us as his servants and followers how to have faith and wait on the promises of God during tough times.

2 Samuel 16:13-14

13 And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

14 And the king, and all the people that were with him, came weary, and refreshed themselves there.

Verse 13 – Do not be surprised if the attack lasts a bit longer than expected....you just keep trucking. Don't be surprised if the cursing follows you for a while.....some folk are like that.....just keep walking.

Verse 14 – David and the people with him get tired along the way, but they still find refreshment there. It is not impossible to find refreshment there.

David is at least at Level 4 and perhaps Level 5 in the 7 step process since he has extended mercy to Shimei. Just as we are refreshed through the Holy Spirit, refreshment and relief can be found in our wilderness situations. Relief doesn't always mean you will be immediately delivered from your wilderness or tough season, it does mean you can be refreshed and strengthened to make it through.

- Notice while he is going through all of this....David still has his mighty men with him on both sides. Your recovery will often involve others. God works through others to help you through.

2 Samuel 16:15-19

15 And Absalom, and all the people the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. 16 And it came to pass, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, was come unto Absalom, that Hushai said unto Absalom, God save the king, God save the king. 17 And Absalom said to Hushai, Is this thy kindness to thy friend? Why wentest thou not with thy friend? 18 And Hushai said unto Absalom, Nay; but whom the LORD, and this people, and all the men of Israel, choose, his will I be, and with him will I abide. 19 And again, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in thy father's presence, so will I be in thy presence.

Verse 16-19 - Hushai arrives and offers his services to Absalom. He is in position for God to use him to help defeat David's enemy.

2 Samuel 16:20-22

²⁰ Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.

²¹ And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

²² So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

Verse 20 – Absalom asks for counsel. This is his first time in this leadership role. All he knows is hair care and deceit, so asking for counsel was appropriate.

Verse 21 – Ahithophel's advice is for Absalom to take his father's concubines. David left them to show he intended to return to his house. The advice serves in part as a political move to confirm his position as the new king. People will see that there is separation between him and David.

Political advice is not always spiritual advice. While this is a strong political move, it is not spiritual and works against the Kingdom. The people who witness or hear about this may be moved to believe that David can never return. This is the trick of the enemy to cause us to think our King will never return.

Application for Today: No matter what the enemy does or wants you to believe, by faith and according to the word of God....believe that Jesus Christ our King will indeed return. It is certainly His plan.

Verse 22 – He takes his father's wives and fulfills the prophesy/curse of 2 Samuel 12:11.

2 Samuel 16:23

²³ And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had enquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Verse 23 – Problem is Ahithophel is smart but also full of pride. His counsel was as if he had inquired of God so he was talented, but spiritual. We never see where he actually enquires of God instead of relying on his own wisdom. This is a problem when people think they are so smart and powerful that they no longer trust in or rely on God. Worldly wisdom is very different from spiritual wisdom which comes from God.

- If a wise person gives you advice but they are not connected to God....be careful!

Summary:

Upon teaching this lesson, I asked the question, “What may cause David to be encouraged after hearing about how his son has treated his wives?” I received a number of different and accurate responses which included, since God had delivered him before, he had faith He could and would do it again. Some replied that he was standing on the promises of God pertaining to his kingdom.

However, I saw an additional reason why David might have been encouraged. If David heard about the advice given to Absalom, he could have easily been discouraged since it may look like God didn’t answer his prayer when in Chapter 15 he asked God to turn Ahithophel’s counsel into foolishness. Instead of turning it around, Absalom was following it. It would seem God didn’t answer his prayer. But I think David could have been encouraged because he still had Hushai in position.

- Hushai showed up after David had prayed. He was connected to the plan for his recovery.
- As long as Hushai was still in place, he would have had hope.
- Application for Today:
 - When you have doubts as to what to do and when God might answer your prayer, stand on what you know. There have been times when I have been in distress wondering how and if God would answer my prayers and meet my needs. I found relief and comfort in these times by standing on what I know. What I know is what I stood on before I saw God move.
 - What is your Hushai? What is the thing you know from sure is from God that you can stand on and know that God is still able and willing to deliver you. You just may not have seen it yet.