

Women's Bible Study ~ Spring 2012

Kings and Kingdoms:

God's Sovereign Hand in Israel's History

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The Great King David - 1 Samuel 16:1-13 & 2 Samuel 16:1-13

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Introduction

Let's read.

2 Samuel 16: 1 - 4

¹ When David had gone a short distance beyond the summit, there was Ziba, the steward of Mephibosheth, waiting to meet him. He had a string of donkeys saddled and loaded with two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred cakes of raisins, a hundred cakes of figs and a skin of wine.

² The king asked Ziba, "Why have you brought these?"

Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and fruit are for the men to eat, and the wine is to refresh those who become exhausted in the wilderness."

³ The king then asked, "Where is your master's grandson?"

Ziba said to him, "He is staying in Jerusalem, because he thinks, 'Today the Israelites will restore to me my grandfather's kingdom.'"

⁴ Then the king said to Ziba, "All that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours."

"I humbly bow," Ziba said. "May I find favor in your eyes, my lord the king."

Now let's get to the history of this passage.

1. David is running. Why? He is fleeing from the potential overtake of Jerusalem from his own son Absalom.
2. Who are Ziba and Mephibosheth? Ziba is a servant of Mephibosheth and came to offer David help. Mephibosheth is the son of Jonathan, David's friend and the son of Saul.
3. What was the arrangement with Jonathan's relatives?

2 Samuel 9:6-13

⁶ When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, “Mephibosheth!”

“At your service,” he replied.

⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”

⁹ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰ You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s^[a] table like one of the king’s sons.

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba’s household were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table; he was lame in both feet.

Why did David say what he did?

He was very quick with a reply that went against his covenant.

He seemed quite earnest about the covenant so why did he blow it? We obviously do not know for sure, but it would seem like he

1. He was running in fear.
2. He was tired.

He spoke too quickly out of some sort of selfish fear and tiredness. Was Ziba correct? Did he take time to find out?

Can you relate?

How do you use your words?

Listen to some of these things...how do you respond to them?

1. I am so sick of you...you are a brat.
2. Nothing you do is right.
3. Are you ever going to grow up?
4. Just wait until you are married. Then you'll be fine.
5. I wish I could be you and do anything I wanted all day long.
6. You are a bother.

Now listen

1. I admire what you do and am so excited to see what is in store for you in the future.
2. I learn so much from you.
3. You are fun to be with.
4. You do so much with your life and I admire how you use your time.

One set can destroy and bring despair. Another brings life and hope.

Example of Phil. He brings me words of encouragement.

Words of kindness and encouragement. Words of despair and shame.

Or words of power. What are words of power....My letter from Henry.

"In the past few days, since we've known the results of his last CAT scan I've often heard Henry quote Psalm 112:7 to people, who ask how he feels about this, "He will have no fear of bad news: his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord."

Karen Anderle and prayer.

Psalm 3....read it and see how David used words of power.

**¹ LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!**

**² Many are saying of me,
"God will not deliver him."^[b]**

**³ But you, LORD, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.**

**⁴ I call out to the LORD,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.**

**⁵ I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.**

**⁶ I will not fear though tens of thousands
assail me on every side.**

**⁷ Arise, LORD!
Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.**

**⁸ From the LORD comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.**

Words of power come from the Lord. They bring more than kindness. They bring eternal hope.

Now onto the next passage.

2 Samuel 16: 5-13

⁵ As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. ⁶ He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. ⁷ As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! ⁸ The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!"

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

¹⁰ But the king said, "What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

¹¹ David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. ¹² It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today."

¹³ So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt.

1. Why was Shimei doing this? Even though it was against the law, he was very angry at David for the killing of men from his own tribe.
2. What was David's attitude? He did not take revenge. He seemed to humbly take the abuse and let God take care of the rest.

How do we do on this angle? Are you willing to let God take revenge?

It seemed that David allowed God to work in this situation. He had humility and the grace to just let it be in spite of the seriousness of the situation.

David wrote a verse that I think applies.

We do not know when David wrote this, but it could have been right after 2 Samuel 16.

1 Samuel 16.....man after God's own heart.

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

How did it turn out? Find out about Ziba and Shimei. What were the results? Back to Psalm 3.

Read 2 Samuel 19...see how it all turned out.

⁴ He won over the hearts of the men of Judah so that they were all of one mind. They sent word to the king, "Return, you and all your men."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.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 king¹⁹ 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 from the tribes 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 does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? What right do you have to interfere? Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Don’t I 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 you wish. 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 land.”

³⁰ Mephibosheth said to the king, “Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has returned home safely.”

What an interesting turn of events. David fixed his mistake and it seems like Mephibosheth is OK with it. And Shimei realizes his mistake and humbly apologizes.

What can you learn from this lesson?

1. There are consequences to the use of our mouth. Some might be permanent. Take the verses seriously about our tongues. Be careful and diligent with our words.
2. Don’t take revenge or retaliation out on others, even if they deserve it. Let God do the work.
3. God’s attitude towards us and how he thinks of us is not dependent on us. It is dependent on His son, Jesus, and what He did.

Our prayer ~ Psalm 19:14

.Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord my rock and my He is our shield. He is our glory. He lifts our head.

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