



# A BETTER KING

## A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



### 2 Samuel 16 – From Friends To Foes

October 29, 2023

#### 1. Ziba — The Con-Man God Used

*When 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.*

*2 Samuel 16:1 (ESV)*

*And the king said to Ziba, “Why have you brought these?”... 2 Samuel 16:2a (ESV)*

*...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.” 2 Samuel 16:2b (ESV)*

*And the king said, “And where is your master’s son?”... 2 Samuel 16:3a (ESV)*

*...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.’” 2 Samuel 16:3b (ESV)*

*Then the king said to Ziba, “Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours.”... 2 Samuel 16:4a (ESV)*

*...And Ziba said, “I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king.” 2 Samuel 16:4b (ESV)*

*And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. He had neither taken care of his feet nor trimmed his beard nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came back in safety. And when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, “Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?” He answered, “My lord, O king, my servant deceived me, for your servant said to him, ‘I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king.’ For your servant is lame. He has slandered your servant to my lord the king...” 2 Samuel 19:24–27 (ESV)*

#### A. Be careful about judging by appearances.

*“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.” Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)*

*Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 1 Timothy 5:19 (ESV)*

**B. God can take what is intended for evil and use it for good.**

## 2. Shimei — The Potty Mouth With A Purpose

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. 2 Samuel 16:5 (ESV)

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. 2 Samuel 16:6 (ESV)

And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! The 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." 2 Samuel 16:7–8 (ESV)

**A. Some people want their opinion more than the facts.**

Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house... 2 Samuel 12:11a (ESV)

Then 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." 2 Samuel 16:9 (ESV)

**B. Sometimes, God disciplines us in one area of life when we are rebelling in a different area.**

But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?' " 2 Samuel 16:10 (ESV)

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. Psalm 119:67 (ESV)

**C. When hurtful words are spoken, we need to keep them in perspective.**

And 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. 2 Samuel 16:11 (ESV)

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

**D. When we graciously endure evil, God frequently repays with good.**

"It 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." 2 Samuel 16:12 (ESV)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you... 1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. 1 Peter 4:19 (ESV)

So 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. And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself. 2 Samuel 16:13–14 (ESV)

### 3. Ahithophel — The Evil Genius

Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him. 2 Samuel 16:15 (ESV)

And when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" 2 Samuel 16:16 (ESV)

And Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" 2 Samuel 16:17 (ESV)

And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, for whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served your father, so I will serve you." 2 Samuel 16:18–19 (ESV)

*"Besides, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so I will be in your presence." 2 Samuel 16:19 (NASB95)*

Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?" 2 Samuel 16:20 (ESV)

Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened." 2 Samuel 16:21 (ESV)

*If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. Leviticus 20:11 (ESV)*

*It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. 1 Corinthians 5:1 (ESV)*

So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. 2 Samuel 16:22 (ESV)

*Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.' 2 Samuel 12:11 (ESV)*

- A. God is bigger than man's evil purposes. Ahithophel's wicked plans were unwittingly fulfilling God's Word.**

**B. If God's words of judgment for David's sin proved true, His words of grace and forgiveness are also true.**

*Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom. 2 Samuel 16:23 (ESV)*

## **Applications**

- 1. Ziba's evil plan to deceive David was used by God to provide for David. This reminds us God can take what was intended for evil against us and use it for good.**
- 2. Shimei reminds us that God may get our attention by disciplining us in one area of life when we are harboring sin in another area.**
- 3. Ahithophel reminds us God is bigger than evil. Even an evil genius had to carry out God's word unwittingly.**
- 4. Evil does not destroy God's good purposes. God incorporates evil into his plans to achieve his good purposes. (Think of Judas and Jesus)**
- 5. David and Ziba remind us not to make radical decisions when tired or overwhelmed.**
- 6. David and Mephibosheth remind us to assume the best about people, not the worst. Don't believe what you hear unless two or three eyewitnesses support it.**

## **Life Group Questions**

---

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 16.** What did you see in this chapter that you never saw before?
- Ziba planned to manipulate David with kindness. How was God using this to care for David? How did David handle this situation wrong? What does this teach us?
- Shimei cursed David for the right reason but for the wrong events. This reminds us that God may discipline us in one area of our life to correct sin in another. Have you experienced this?
- How did Ahithophel, who intended to destroy God's purposes for David, end up carrying out God's purposes for David? How is this similar to Judas and Jesus? Why does this keep us from losing hope when great evil is done to us?
- Even though Mephibosheth was faithful to David, David incorrectly assumed the worst about him when he heard an accusation against him. What can we learn from this to avoid repeating his mistake?
- Consider 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. How did God use Satan's activities in Paul's life for good?
- While speaking truthfully, Hushai deceived his enemy. Was his deceit justified? In what situations might deceit be justified? See Joshua 2, Exodus 1:18-20.