



A BETTER KING

A SERIES IN 2 SAMUEL



2 Samuel 19:8-43 – The Return Of The King

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...Now Israel had fled every man to his own home. 2 Samuel 19:8b (ESV)

1. David pursued unity instead of revenge.

And all the people were arguing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies and saved us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom. But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?" 2 Samuel 19:9–10 (ESV)

And King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests: "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house, when the word of all Israel has come to the king? You are my brothers; you are my bone and my flesh. Why then should you be the last to bring back the king?'" 2 Samuel 19:11–12 (ESV)

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh." 2 Samuel 5:1 (ESV)

...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1 (ESV)

And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me and more also, if you are not commander of my army from now on in place of Joab.' " 2 Samuel 19:13 (ESV)

And he swayed the heart of all the men of Judah as one man, so that they sent word to the king, "Return, both you and all your servants." 2 Samuel 19:14 (ESV)

2. David pursued unity by offering everyone a fresh start.

So the king came back to the Jordan,... 2 Samuel 19:15a (ESV)

...and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring the king over the Jordan. 2 Samuel 19:15 (ESV)

And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day." Joshua 5:9 (ESV)

Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom." 1 Samuel 11:14 (ESV)

3. Shimei, the man who pretended to be sorry to get out of a pickle.

...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. 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. And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man!" 2 Samuel 16:5–7 (ESV)

And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David. And with him were a thousand men from Benjamin. And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king, and they crossed the ford to bring over the king's household and to do his pleasure... 2 Samuel 19:16–18b (ESV)

...And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, and said to the king, "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. For your servant knows that I have sinned. Therefore, behold, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king." 2 Samuel 19:18b–20 (ESV)

Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?" 2 Samuel 19:21 (ESV)

But 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?" And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath. 2 Samuel 19:22–23 (ESV)

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

...forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:13b (ESV)

...If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." Luke 17:3b–4 (ESV)

4. Mephibosheth, the man to whom money didn't matter

And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king... 2 Samuel 19:24a (ESV)

...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. 2 Samuel 19:24b (ESV)

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. But my lord the king is like the angel of God; do therefore what seems good to you. For all my father's house were but men doomed to death before my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. What further right have I, then, to cry to the king?" And the king said to him, "Why speak any more of your affairs? I have decided: you and Ziba shall divide the land." And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Oh, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come safely home."
2 Samuel 19:25–30 (ESV)

5. Barzillai, the man who cared about the next generation

Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, and he went on with the king to the Jordan, to escort him over the Jordan. 2 Samuel 19:31 (ESV)

Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. He had provided the king with food while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. 2 Samuel 19:32 (ESV)

And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will provide for you with me in Jerusalem." 2 Samuel 19:33 (ESV)

But Barzillai said to the king, "How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem? I am this day eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward? Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother. But here is your servant Chimham. Let him go over with my lord the king, and do for him whatever seems good to you." 2 Samuel 19:34–37 (ESV)

And the king answered, "Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you, and all that you desire of me I will do for you."
2 Samuel 19:38 (ESV)

And they went and stayed at Geruth Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt
Jeremiah 41:17 (ESV)

But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.
1 Kings 2:7 (ESV)

Then all the people went over the Jordan, and the king went over. And the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own home. The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him.... 2 Samuel 19:39–40a (ESV)

6. Unity is often destroyed by petty things.

...All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way. 2 Samuel 19:40 (ESV)

Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?" 2 Samuel 19:41 (ESV)

All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?" 2 Samuel 19:42 (ESV)

And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?"... 2 Samuel 19:43a (ESV)

...But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel. 2 Samuel 19:43b (ESV)

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

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

Applications

1. **It is only when we understand how much God forgave us that we can pursue unity with those who hurt us.**
2. **God wants us to humble ourselves to pursue unity, not pridefully take revenge.**
3. **As Christians, petty issues often ruin the unity that should come from Jesus.**

Life Group Questions

1. **Read 2 Samuel 19:8-43.** What was surprising in this chapter?
2. After the coup against his life, what enabled David to humble himself and pursue unity in the nation and with difficult people? What does this teach us about unity in our home and church? What will it take to achieve it?
3. Shimei's repented to save his skin. It wasn't a change of heart. Why did David accept it? Read about the end of Shimei's life in 1 Kings 2:8-9, 36-46. What does this reveal about his true attitude toward the king?
4. Mephibosheth didn't receive justice. What does his response teach us about responding when we don't receive justice?
5. Barzillai was more concerned for the next generation than himself. What does this teach us about how we should live as we age? How does this thinking shape the way we go about Reaching People With Jesus at CrossWinds?
6. If you were in Joab's place, how would you have reacted when David replaced you with Amasa? How would you have felt toward each of them?
7. What parallels do you see between the intertribal squabbles over David and church arguments today? What was the source of their bickering? See Galatians 5:25, 1 Corinthians 1:10-17.