

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART III

STUDY NUMBER EIGHTEEN - 2 Samuel 16:1-23

David is 60 today.

His family is falling apart.

We have shared a principle the past few weeks:

There is instant forgiveness for sin
but the consequences can remain
for the rest of your life.

When we are disobedient and we violate
the law of God we can expect that consequences
are going to result from that.

They can be devastating.

For David things are really falling apart.

After his Bathsheba on the roof of the palace sin, these
last ten years have been really tough.

Amnon raped his sister Tamar.

Absalom waited for his dad to do something
for two years.

His dad did nothing but get mad
so Absalom murdered Amnon.

Absalom fled to grandma's house in the north.

David left him there for three years and did not do a thing to Absalom or for Absalom.

Last week we saw Absalom finally, because of a trick by Joab, came back to Jerusalem.

But David says, “He will not see my face.”
David never forgave him.

For two years the son lives in the same town and he is never granted an audience with his dad.

Finally, Absalom gets to see his dad and the forgiveness is very conditional.
We could tell it was not real.

For the next four years in the story, Absalom is forming a conspiracy for his own rival kingdom.

He sought permission to go to Hebron, and there the conspiracy took place.
Absalom is taking over and David is fleeing the city of Jerusalem.

It is so sad with a lot of tears and a lot of hurt and a lot of pain.

David is at the lowest point of his life today.
Let me read a couple of Psalms that come out of this particular time in David's life:

Psalm 38:1-4,17-19

1

O LORD, rebuke me not in Your wrath,
And chasten me not in Your burning anger.

2

For Your arrows have sunk deep into me,
And Your hand has pressed down on me.

3

There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your
indignation;
There is no health in my bones because of my sin.

4

For my iniquities are gone over my head;
As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me.

17

For I am ready to fall,
And my sorrow is continually before me.

18

For I confess my iniquity;
I am full of anxiety because of my sin.

19

But my enemies are vigorous and strong,
And many are those who hate me wrongfully.

Psalm 55:1-3

1

Give ear to my prayer, O God;

And do not hide Yourself from my supplication.

2

Give heed to me and answer me;
I am restless in my complaint and am surely distracted,

3

Because of the voice of the enemy,
Because of the pressure of the wicked;
For they bring down trouble upon me
And in anger they bear a grudge against me.

David and God are still together.
They are in fellowship.
He is suffering some severe consequences.

We could call this 16th chapter:

“CHEATED, CURSED, & CHASTENED”

Let's get into it.

v. 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.

The summit is the Mount of Olives.
That is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the city of Jerusalem.
Absalom is coming into the city.

Let me remind you of the emotional climate.

2 Samuel 15:30

“And David went up to the ascent of the Mount of Olives and wept as he went. And his head was covered, and he walked barefoot. Then all the people who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went.”

Now Ziba enters the picture.

Ziba was a servant of Saul when he was king. David remembers that he made a covenant to Jonathan and to Saul that he would protect their families if in fact they died.

They both have died.

David says, “Are there any of the family of Jonathan or of Saul left?” And one of the fellows says, “I don’t know but I know how we can find out. Well let’s get old Ziba in here.”

So Ziba comes to David.

And Ziba says, “Well it is strange you would ask that. Yes. Over in Lo-debar, about sixteen to eighteen miles from here at the house of Machir, is a man by the name of Mephibosheth.

He is one of Jonathan's sons."
David says, "Well bring him!"

What happened to Mephibosheth?

When Saul and Jonathan died on Mount Gilboa in the battle with the Philistines, Mephibosheth was five years old and the nurse grabbed him up and began to run evidently tripped and fell and dropped Mephibosheth.

She probably fell on him and he experienced a double ankle fracture. As a result he has been crippled in both feet all of his life.

When David found him, he gave him all of the real estate from Saul's estate, plus he gave him Ziba and his whole family of servants to care for all of Mephibosheth's land holdings.

Mephibosheth moved to Jerusalem and was actually adopted into David's family because he took all of his meals with David's sons and he ate at the king's table.

Ziba has prepared a pretty impressive gift for David and his followers.

1. String of donkeys
2. 200 loaves of bread
3. 100 cakes of raisins

4. 100 cakes of figs
5. a skin of wine

The king is a little suspicious, look at verse 2:

v. 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 desert."

v. 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 house of Israel will give me back my grandfather's kingdom.'"

Mephibosheth certainly:

1. Cannot be that selfish.
2. Could not even in his wildest dreams entertain the thought that he would be in the running for king if David in fact loses his job.

The king asked, "Where is your master's grandson?" Ziba said to him, "He is staying in Jerusalem."

Ziba lies to David and David just takes him at his word and believes him. Well, why not.

His own son had betrayed him. It would come as no surprise to have another friend betray him too.

v. 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.”

You can just hear Ziba saying, “Yeah!” inside.

Well, Ziba got all that he came after because the king gave all of the estate of Saul now into the hands of Ziba.

v. 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.

That is just a few miles down the road.

“... same clan as Saul’s family” — that is the tribe of Benjamin.

“His name was Shimei the snake”
not “Shimei the son of Gera.”

Whereas David was cheated by Ziba,
he was cursed by Shimei.

Poor David!

He’s at the lowest point of his whole life.
The whole world is crashing in on him,
and here comes Shimei.

You’ll never forget Shimei after we have

completed this study. He is a snake and a real fink.

Matthew 5:11,12

“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on account of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

v. 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.

v. 7 As he cursed, Shimei said, “Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel!

v. 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 handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!”

Verses 7 & 8 in the living Bible give us even a more graphic picture of Shimei's speech:

v. 7 “Get out of here, you murderer! You scoundrel!” he shouted at David.

v. 8 “The Lord is paying you back for murdering King Saul and his family. You stole his throne and now the Lord has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, you murderer!”

Shimei tell three lies, one right after another:

1. The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul.

Has David shed one drop of the blood of the household of Saul? He had a chance in the cave when he cut his garment and he was conscience-stricken.

The next time we see him, the king and Abner are asleep in a big circle of men and Abishai sneaks down and Abishai wants to gig him right on the spot, and David says, “No. We do not touch the Lord’s anointed.”

The Amalekite comes down with the crown and the gold armband from Saul saying that he slew him on the mountain. And David sees that he is executed on the spot.

Ish-Bosheth running the civil war in the north, Saul’s son, and when he is assassinated and they bring his head down, those two men

are both executed on the spot.
You do not touch the Lord's anointed.
He has never shed a drop of blood.

2. The Lord has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom.

The Lord doesn't have anything to do with this.

3. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood.

No, David is a military man who has been used greatly by God in the years of his leadership in the kingdom. That is not true.

There is a great lesson that I want to bring out here because I think it is vitally important.

One of the things that you really appreciate about a person and probably one of the greatest compliments you can get from a friend, especially as you get older, is that you know you are making progress.

A mature individual is a person who knows his strengths and his weaknesses and he has a program to work on his weaknesses to make them strengths.

That is a person who is mature and growing.

David in his younger years, because he is a sanguine melancholy, has a hair-trigger temper. Somebody walks across his toes and you are going to pay for it dearly.

On top of that he is a redhead. You put those things together, and you have a barnburner. He has a horrible time with a temper.

Remember back when Nabal denied him hospitality rights and the men came back and said, “He is not giving us anything”?

Do you remember what our spiritual giant said? “He turned to four-hundred of his men and said, ‘Get your swords. We are wiping out the house of Nabal by sunset tomorrow! We are going to burn the place up! Kill every one of them!’” Oh, he was mad!

If Abigail had not stepped out in front of the speeding train it all would have happened, too. She confronted David with a courageous act, a great speech, that stopped him in his anger from doing that.

David demonstrates something beautiful today and it is a mark of growth, it is a mark of godliness. I want you to watch it.

At a time when he is so low, when everything is so hard, he has the right because of his temperament to just get mad and just take it to Shimei. "I have had all I can take!"

Shimei comes out cursing, swearing, yelling at him, and makes these three false accusations. I love verse 9, this is great.

Abishai, you know who he is. He is Joab's brother and that is David's nephew. Zeruiah is David's sister.

Abishai is always the same.

Abishai is the Clint Eastwood of the Old testament. He has his 357 magnum pointed right at you and says, "Make a move. Make my day." That is Abishai.

Now watch:

v. 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."

I can take care of this quick! Just one whack!

Shimei is a real turkey. He's way out of line, and David is innocent, at least of what Shimei accuses him.

So David had a choice.
He can become offended or not.

Psalm 119:165

“Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.”

v. 10 But the king said, “What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’”

I want to land there for a minute.
Let me talk about that verse for just a minute before we go any further.

David sees in everything that is happening to him right now, the hand of God.
That is what is so beautiful about this.

If you are really relating properly to the trials and circumstances in your life, there ought to never be anything, that affects your ability to praise the Lord.

Because He is still just the same even when the tears are running down your cheeks.

As a believer, there should be nothing that would affect your love and your confidence in God's ability to handle the affairs of your life.

David says, “Let him curse because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David.’”

You might be thinking right now,
“How do bad things happen to good people?
God is not in the bad things!”

God is either in it all or He is not in it at all.

You make your choice.
God knows exactly what you need and what I need.

He has a divine curriculum to hasten the work
of the Spirit of God in making you
like the Person of Christ.

Your progress toward maturity is dependent upon you
accepting and responding to the curriculum
He has designed.

Even though you do not understand it,
and when it comes and it looks like it is raining
and raining and raining, you are trusting the Lord.

There are two things that the Lord never answers, He
never gives you dates and
He never gives you reasons.

All we can do now is trust Him.

As long as you are asking why you have not submitted to what He has permitted, you are still fighting it.

It is like when you tell your kids to do the dishes and they say "Why?" They are rebelling against you. They want you to do the dishes. So they say, "Why?"

Change all your "Why's" to "What's" and then you have submitted to the divine curriculum.

What is it that I should learn from what You have allowed?

I will not let what has happened affect my praise and worship of You.

I thank You for Who You are and I thank You that You love me and it is unconditional. And I ask You to help me to understand what I am going through.

"It does not bother me that Shimei is throwing rocks at me and Ziba would cheat me, the thing that really hurts" is in verse 11:

v. 11 David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to.

There is your real wound!

v. 12 It may be that the Lord will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today.”
There is the attitude!

You see, it is hard to get bitter toward people you do not like and who really give you a rough time if you see them as the instrument of God in your life to make you more Christ like!

They are God’s gift to mature you in specific areas of your life.

The big question that comes before us at this time, as we see David handle this thing with such finesse, is why could he not do the same for Absalom his son, and ultimately have avoided probably all that is taking place right now in his life.

v. 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.

He was just putting it on him.

v. 14 The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

They are about sixteen miles away from Jerusalem now.

They have traveled through some desert.

They are very close to the city of Jericho.

In the Old Testament it would be called Gilgal.

Before we go there I want to talk to you for just a second and get your impression of the last phrase:

“And there he refreshed himself.”

What immediately comes to your mind?

It has been a hot, hard trip.

David cleaned himself up, and totally exhausted he wants to go to sleep for a while.

Is that what it is?

I don't take it that way.

David at this point is totally rung out.

David is emotionally, physically, and spiritually exhausted.

What do you do when you are like that?

I tell you what he did, he refreshed himself

in the Lord his God.

The reason so many Christians crack up and fall apart, is when it gets rough, they do not have anybody to turn to.

They have not developed enough of a relationship with the Lord to get refreshed when things are really tough.

So they get depressed and they fall apart.
And they don't make it.

You know why I know that?
When Jonathan made that 26 mile trip from Gibeah down to the forest of Horesh the scripture says,
"He strengthened David in the Lord his God."

I think David refreshed himself now.
Far more in the spiritual and the emotional than he did in the physical.

Well, David has been cheated and cursed.
Cheated by Ziba, Cursed by Shimei.
Chastened by his own son Absalom.
The camera is switched back to Jerusalem now. Sixteen miles back where David's left.

There are a couple of verses of scripture that you may recall now.

They are strange verses. When they are read by themselves, you wonder how all of that is going to happen.

Nathan the prophet is speaking, David has just been confronted with his sin with Bathsheba, and this is what we hear:

2 Samuel 12:11,12

“Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household. I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. Indeed, you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel and under the sun.’”

David, you and Bathsheba were meeting privately up there on the roof in the dark and you thought you got away with it. But now part of the consequences are going to be somebody in your own house is going to sleep with your wives in the broad daylight.

“Meanwhile” back at the ranch.

v. 15 Meanwhile, Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.

Remember Ahithophel?

He was David's press secretary, chief confidant.
But, grandfather to Bathsheba, he goes with
the conspiracy.

v. 16 Then Hushai the Arkite, David's friend, went to
Absalom and said to him, "Long live the king! Long live
the king!"

Remember Hushai? He was the little old man
that wanted to go with him and David says,
"Go back and frustrate the counsel of Ahithophel.
Be my friend but be part of my secret intelligence."

The old gentleman goes back, wait until next week. He is
the star of the story! No fair reading ahead.

v. 17 Absalom asked Hushai, "Is this the love you show
your friend? Why didn't you go with you friend?"

Absalom has two questions for Hushai
because he knows that he is a close friend
of David's:

"Is this the love you show your friend?"

"Why didn't you go with your friend?"

Notice that Absalom does not say,
"Is this the love you show for my father,
or why didn't you go with my father?"

He has no love or feeling of compassion

or closeness with his dad at all.
He is not my father or my friend; it's your friend.

v. 18 Hushai said to Absalom, “No, the one chosen by the Lord, by these people and by all the men of Israel—his I will be, and I will remain with him.

v. 19 Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve the son? Just as I served your father, so I will serve you.”

After this great declaration of loyalty, how could Absalom do otherwise than to receive Hushai into his confidence and court with great enthusiasm.

“Just as I served your father, so I will serve you.”

v. 20 Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give us your advice. What should we do?”

“Ahithophel, what do you think we should do as our first political act now that we have taken over the city and they have left?”

Ahithophel, burning with bitterness inside, just oozing out of him, says:

v. 21 Ahithophel answered, “Lie with your father’s concubines whom he left to take care of the palace. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench in your father’s nostrils, and the hands of everyone with you will be strengthened.”

Remember David left ten girls last week to take care of the palace while he was gone, these are the girls.

v. 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he lay with his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel.

They pitched a tent on the roof, where the affair had taken place a long time before.

The rupture has taken place.
There is no returning.

Absalom did this, there is no way that he can return to his father, and forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Chastened by his own son.

v. 23 Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel’s advice. The chapter ends with a word about Ahithophel and how the advice which he gave as a counselor was received by both David and Absalom.

“It was like that of one who inquires of God.”

We have seen David CHEATED, CURSED, and CHASTENED in this particular passage of Scripture.

How his heart must ache, and how he must hurt over this situation.

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: Even your close friends can become selfish in a time of crisis.

Lesson #2: David does not try to defend himself against Shimei.

You never find David indulging in self-defense.

You do not have to when your conscience is clear before God and your heart is right.

You do not worry about that.

The Lord vindicates His own.

Lesson #3: When we recognize our trial comes from the hand of the Lord, we have no right to ask,

“Why do you do this?”

Rather, I trust You.

What am I supposed to learn by what has come into my life?

Lesson #4: David does not retaliate or seek revenge in this situation.

Lesson #5: David has matured greatly in the areas of patience and self-control.

Lesson #6: God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Lesson #7: God's chastening hand falls upon David in judgment by Absalom's action.

There are some verses from the Psalms I would give you to meditate on as you go home today:

Psalm 119:67,68

"Before I was afflicted, I went astray. But now I keep thy word. Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes."

Psalm 119:71

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn thy statutes."

Psalm 147:3

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Listen to Ron Lee David when he gives an insight that applies to tonight's study:

Ron Davis in his book *A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World* says,

“God has established his universe with both a material order and a moral order.

An example of the workings of the material order is the law of gravity.

We may not like the law of gravity.

We may disagree with it.

We may choose not to believe in it.

But our belief or lack of belief in it does not alter the fact that gravity operates in the material universe, part of the impersonal, natural order established in the beginning by God.

If a man exercises his God-given free will and throws himself from the top of a tall building, we can be sure that he will incur some exceedingly unpleasant consequences upon his arrival on the pavement below. Was God there pushing him off the building? Ridiculous.

Is God angrily pulling him down to the pavement so as to hurt him and exact vengeance?

Certainly not.

This man exercised his own free will.

He violated the natural law of the universe, and he incurred the reasonable, predictable cause and effect consequences.

The moral order functions in much the same way. When we violate moral laws, we risk the reasonable, predictable, cause-and-effect consequences associated with that violation.

But God is not directing his personal anger toward us at such moments.”

We can expect when we violate the moral order there are reasonable, legitimate consequences and it is not God getting mad because it is rough.

David is suffering the predictable consequences of that affair with Bathsheba on the roof of the palace, ten years later.

In the same way, if you jump off of a building you are going to suffering the uncomfortable consequences of the law of the gravity.

I think that is an incredible insight and helps me understand sometimes the rough times in my life.

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART III

STUDY NUMBER EIGHTEEN - 2 Samuel 16:1-23

16:v. 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.

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v.11 David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to.

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v.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.

v.14 The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

v.15 Meanwhile, Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.

v.16 Then Hushai the Arkite, David's friend, went to Absalom and said to him, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

v.17 Absalom asked Hushai, "Is this the love you show your friend? Why didn't you go with your friend?"

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v.23 Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel's advice.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read **2 Samuel 16:1-23** several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.
2. Who does David meet in **chapter 16:1**?
3. What did Ziba say was the reason that Mephibosheth stayed in Jerusalem, according to **verse 3**?
4. How does Shimei respond to King David in **verses 5-8**?
5. How does Abishai want to solve the problem, according to **verse 9**?
6. How does David respond to Abishai in **verses 10-12**?
7. What questions does Absalom ask of Hushai in **verse 17**?

8. What advice does Ahithophel give to Absalom in the last part of the chapter?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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LESSON #1: Even your close friends can become selfish in a time of crisis.

LESSON #2: David does not try to defend himself against Shimei.

LESSON #3: When we recognize our trial comes from the hand of the Lord, we have no right to ask, "Why do you do this?"

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