



37: Restoration Day - Return of the King! (2 Samuel 19)

When King David returned after a season of rebellion and division, people responded with gratitude, repentance, devotion, contentment—and even selfish ambition. Today we explore 2 Samuel 19 and discover how the return of the King reveals the true condition of every heart, including our own.

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teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

Isaiah 53:5-6

But he was **pierced** because of our rebellion, **crushed** because of our iniquities; **punishment** for our peace was **on him**, and **we are healed by his wounds**. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has **punished him** for the iniquity of us all.

2 Samuel 19:1-7

It was reported to Joab, "**The king is weeping**. He's **mourning over Absalom**." That day's victory was turned into mourning for all the troops because on that day the troops heard, "The king is grieving over his son." So **they returned to the city quietly** that day **like troops come in when they are humiliated after fleeing in battle**. But the king covered his face and cried loudly, "My son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!"

Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today **you have shamed all your soldiers**—those who saved your life as well as your sons, your wives, and your concubines—by **loving your enemies and hating those who love you!** Today you have made it clear that **the commanders and soldiers mean nothing to you**. In fact, today I know that **if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead, it would be fine with you!** "Now get up! **Go out and encourage your soldiers**, for I swear by the Lord that **if you don't go out, not a man will remain with you tonight**. This will be worse for you than all the trouble that has come to you from your youth until now!" So **the king got up and sat in the city gate**, and all the people were told, "Look, the king is sitting in the city gate." Then **they all came into the king's presence**. Meanwhile, each Israelite had fled to his tent.

Joab's challenge to address the troops turns out to be **a wise decision** that David listens to. Even kings need advisors.

Proverbs 12:15 A fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise.

❓ Do you have others you invite to tell you the truth or do you rely on your own insight?

2 Samuel 19:9-10 People throughout all the tribes of Israel were arguing among themselves, saying, "**The king rescued us** from the grasp of our enemies, and he saved us from the grasp of the Philistines, but now **he has fled from the land because of Absalom**. But **Absalom**, the man we anointed over us, **has died in battle**. So **why do you say nothing about restoring the king?**"

👉 RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **GRATITUDE for David's protection**

2 Samuel 19:11-12 King David sent word to the priests Zadok and Abiathar: "Say to the **elders of Judah**, '**Why should you be the last to restore the king to his palace?**' The talk of all Israel has reached the king at his house. You are my brothers, **my flesh and blood**. So why should you be the last to restore the king?"

The elders of Judah were David's people - his tribe. Shouldn't they be the first to restore David as King?

2 Samuel 19:13 And tell **Amasa**, 'Aren't you **my flesh and blood?** May God punish me and do so severely if **you don't become commander of my army** from now on instead of Joab!'"

Amasa is the man that Absalom chose to lead all his troops against David's troops and now David drops Joab's rank and gives **Amasa** his position as **commander** of David's army!

✗ There is no Biblical reference pointing Joab to David as Absalom's killer.

- David's willingness to make this leadership change and place Amasa over Joab seems to be a diplomatic decision, but also removes the rogue Joab from the highest military position. The people of Judah who had opposed David know that he is willing to bring genuine reconciliation - since their general, would now be David's right hand man.

2 Samuel 19:14-15

So **he won over all the men of Judah**, and they unanimously sent word to the king: **"Come back, you and all your servants."** Then **the king returned**. When he arrived at the Jordan, **Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king** and escort him across the Jordan.

This verse tells us where the story is headed—**Gilgal**. The narrator pauses to tell us about all the people who met David before crossing the Jordan River. Verse 40 resumes the journey and shows David arriving at Gilgal, with his escort who has already crossed over to get him.

Gilgal is the place where Samuel had confronted Saul's disobedience and announced Yahweh had found a new king who would obey HIM - that is David (1 Samuel 13:8-15). It is here that Saul, the king from the tribe of Benjamin was rejected, while the future king from Judah - David - was looming on the horizon.

🕒 RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **LOYALTY & PROXIMITY**

2 Samuel 19:16-18a **Shimei** son of Gera, **the Benjaminite from Bahurim**, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David. There were a thousand men from Benjamin with him. **Ziba**, an attendant from the house of Saul with his fifteen sons and twenty servants also rushed down to the Jordan ahead of the king. They forded the Jordan to bring the king's household across and do whatever the king desired.

Shimei is the man who was throwing rocks and cursing David when he was fleeing from Jerusalem to Bahurim. And now, this man - probably concerned for his life now that David is going to be king again, joins **a thousand men from Benjamin** (Saul's tribe), to celebrate David's victory & restoration as King.

🕒 Ziba - RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **SERVICE**

2 Samuel 19:18b-20

When **Shimei** son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he **fell facedown before the king** and said to him, "My lord, **don't hold me guilty, and don't remember your servant's wrongdoing on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem**. May the king not take it to heart. For your servant knows that **I have sinned**. But look! Today I am the first one of the entire house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king."

🕒 Shimei - RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **REPENTANCE**

2 Samuel 19:21-23 **Abishai** son of Zeruiah asked, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" David answered, "Sons of Zeruiah, do we agree on anything? Have you become my adversary today? Should any man be killed in Israel today? Am I not aware that today **I'm king over Israel**?" So the king said to **Shimei**, "**You will not die**." Then **the king gave him his oath**.

Abishai is the same guy who wanted to kill Shimei when he was chucking rocks at David and his men (2 Sam 16:9).

David had to calm him down, and now David has to do the same thing again. David is thankful to be restored, thankful to once again be **king over Israel**. This isn't the day for retaliation, but celebration!

David shows much grace, making it clear that he will forgive instead of get pay back. 1,000 years later "the Son of David" - the Lord Jesus commands his followers...

Luke 17:3-4 ...If your brother sins, rebuke him, and **if he repents, forgive him**. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' **you must forgive him**."

- This does NOT mean you trust that person immediately. Forgiveness and trust are 2 different things. David later warns Solomon to keep his eyes on Shimei because he isn't trustworthy (1 Kings 2:8-9). David will not kill Shimei despite his rock throwing and cursing David. Instead, he assures Shimei that he will not be punished for this.

2 Samuel 19:24-25

Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, also went down to meet the king. **He had not taken care of his feet, trimmed his mustache, or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely**. When **he came from Jerusalem to meet the king**, the king asked him, "Mephibosheth, **why didn't you come with me?**"

Mephibosheth's mourning look seems to be evidence that he was telling the truth. Remember, David had been told that Mephibosheth had betrayed him, even though David had invested in Mephibosheth essentially adopting him as a son.

2 Samuel 19:26-28 "My lord the king," he replied, "my servant **Ziba betrayed me**. Actually your servant said, 'I'll saddle the donkey for myself so that I may ride it and go with the king'—for your servant is lame. **Ziba slandered your servant** to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the angel of God, so do whatever you think best. For my grandfather's entire family deserves death from my lord the king, but **you set your servant among those who eat at your table**. So what further right do I have to keep on making appeals to the king?"

Mephibosheth calls on David to balance the claims and consider Mephibosheth's character and their past relationship - the one you brought **to eat at your table** - essentially an adopted son. This is wise.

- ✓ **When you hear something difficult about someone you know well, give them the benefit of the doubt** before you get angry or push away. Ask them to address the concerns you have, but show them graciousness & remember their faithfulness in the previous relationship.

Ultimately, Mephibosheth will trust David's judgment and he will quit asking for special treatment.

2 Samuel 19:29

The king said to him, "Why keep on speaking about these matters of yours? I hereby declare: you and Ziba are to divide the land."

After David's death, his son, King Solomon, will be asked to judge between 2 prostitutes who had babies about the same time. When one rolls over on her baby at night and kills him, she swaps her dead baby out for the other lady's baby.

- Solomon decides to *cut that baby in half and let them share it*. One woman agrees, while the real mother is willing to give her child up rather than have him killed. And that clarified who the mother really was - the one who cared more about her child. (1 Kings 3:16-28)

David doesn't seem to have insight into who is telling the truth - so he divides everything in half.

2 Samuel 19:30

Mephibosheth said to the king, "Instead, since my lord the king has come to his palace safely, **let Ziba take it all!**"

🕒 Mephibosheth - RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **DEVOTION**

This shows where Mephibosheth's focus is - the *FACE* of the king rather than the *HAND* of the king; the PERSON over his Possessions.

❓ Do you **seek the FACE of the KING rather than the HAND of the King?**

Some people want what the King can GIVE. Others want...the KING HIMSELF!

2 Samuel 19:31-38

Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim and accompanied the king to the Jordan River to see him off at the Jordan. **Barzillai** was a very old man—eighty years old—and since he was a very wealthy man, he had provided for the needs of the king while he stayed in Mahanaim. The king said to Barzillai, "Cross over with me, and I'll provide for you at my side in Jerusalem." Barzillai replied to the king, "How many years of my life are left that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king? I'm now eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or drinks? Can I still hear the voice of male and female singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king? Since your servant is only going with the king a little way across the Jordan, why should the king repay me with such a reward? Please let your servant return so that I may die in my own city near the tomb of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king. Do for him what seems good to you." The king replied, "Chimham will cross over with me, and I will do for him what seems good to you, and whatever you desire from me I will do for you." So all the people crossed the Jordan, and **then the king crossed**. The king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and Barzillai returned to his home.

🕒 Barzillai - RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **CONTENTMENT**

2 Samuel 19:40

The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went with him. All the troops of Judah and half of Israel's escorted the king.

Not all is well, however.

2 Samuel 19:41-43

Suddenly, all the men of Israel came to the king. They asked him, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, take you away secretly and transport the king and his household across the Jordan, along with all of David's men?" All the men of Judah responded to the men of Israel, "Because the king is our relative. Why does this make you angry? Have we ever eaten anything of the king's or been honored at all?" The men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, so we have a greater claim to David than you. Why then do you despise us? Weren't we the first to speak of restoring our king?"

But the words of the men of Judah were harsher than those of the men of Israel.

Those who once were willing to run David off are now fighting over him & who deserves to be closer to him. This leads to more infighting in the next chapter. Sadly, the return and restoration of the king is diluted rather than fully celebrated. Such is the reality among sinful people who are jockeying for position.

🕒 Israel vs Judah - RESPONDING to the RETURN of the KING - **SEEKING THE SPOTLIGHT**

✓ There IS a place where full celebration over restoration is not diluted at all!

Remember when Jesus tells the stories about why he made time to sit and talk with sinners even when the religious leaders looked down on him for doing it? Jesus tells 3 stories in Luke 15. Here's one.

Luke 15:8-10

Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, '**Rejoice with me**, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, **in the same way**, there is **joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents.**"

The One who *STARTS* this celebration of restoration, is the One who went searching for the coin! Jesus tells this story to point to why HE is hanging out with sinners, because HE is the One sweeping the floor, finding the coin, and starting the celebration over restoration! YOU are that COIN!!!! For those who repent of sin and turn to Jesus, there is a celebration of restoration - OVER YOU!!!

One day the King IS going to RETURN! On that day we won't be divided or jockeying for position. Instead, we will bask in His grace & realize that...we will be with HIM....FOREVER!!!!

? *Are you prepared for THAT DAY? How will you respond to the return of the King?*

✓ *with gratitude, loyalty, service, repentance, devotion, contentment, or*

✗ *seeking the spotlight, living for yourself?*

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

Discussionquestions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. The theme of this chapter is "Response to the Return of the King." Which response in 2 Samuel 19 stood out to you the most, and why?
2. The Israelites responded with gratitude as they remembered how David had rescued and protected them (2 Sam. 19:9–10). What are some specific ways God has protected, provided for, or been faithful to you that should produce gratitude in your life?
3. David listened to Joab's difficult counsel and changed his behavior (2 Sam. 19:5–8). Why is it often hard to receive correction? Who are some people you trust to speak truth into your life?
4. Shimei responded to David's return with repentance (2 Sam. 19:18–20). What are some characteristics of genuine repentance? Why is repentance often difficult for people?
5. Jesus commands His followers to forgive those who repent (Luke 17:3–4). What is the difference between forgiveness and trust? Why is that distinction important?
6. Mephibosheth's concern was not his possessions but the safe return of the king (2 Sam. 19:30). What does his response teach us about valuing the King more than the King's gifts?
7. The sermon contrasted seeking the face of the King versus seeking the hand of the King. In your own walk with Christ, which temptation do you struggle with more—wanting Jesus Himself or primarily wanting what He can do for you?
8. Barzillai demonstrated contentment late in life (2 Sam. 19:31–39). What are some things that make contentment difficult in our culture? How can we cultivate a heart that says, "I have enough"?
9. The men of Israel and Judah ended up arguing about who was closest to David (2 Sam. 19:41–43). What are some modern ways Christians can be tempted to "seek the spotlight" rather than celebrate the King?
10. Looking at the responses in this chapter—gratitude, loyalty, service, repentance, devotion, contentment, and seeking the spotlight—which response best describes your current relationship with Jesus? Which one most needs to grow?
11. The return of David revealed the hearts of the people. How do you think the future return of Jesus will reveal what truly matters in our hearts?
12. If Jesus returned this week, what is one thing you would want Him to find you doing, believing, or pursuing?

Prayer Focus: Spend a few minutes thanking Jesus for welcoming repentant sinners and asking Him to help you respond to His kingship with gratitude, loyalty, service, repentance, devotion, and contentment rather than seeking the spotlight for yourself.