

2 Samuel 16: Opportunists, Enemies, and Traitors

2 Samuel 15 Review: Rebellion, Submission, and Conspiracy

- David flees Jerusalem as his son Absalom conspires to be King
- David submits to God's will, sacrificing for the greater good
- Jonathan, John the Baptist, and Jesus

2 Samuel 16: Opportunists, Enemies, and Traitors

- David is fleeing Jerusalem as Absalom is entering to take over
- Climbed Mount of Olives now descending other side
- David being kicked while down

1Now when David had passed a little beyond the summit, behold, **Ziba** the servant of Mephibosheth met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them were two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred clusters of raisins, a hundred summer fruits, and a jug of wine. 2The king said to Ziba, "Why do you have these?" And Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride, and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine, **for whoever is faint in the wilderness to drink.**"

- **Opportunist:** One who uses others for personal gain
- **Ziba:** First Saul's servant now Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson's servant.
- **Expected** Saul's estate after Saul and Jonathan were killed; David gave it to Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson; Jonathan's son

3Then the king said, "And where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will **restore the kingdom of my father to me.**'" 4So the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I prostrate myself; let me find favor in your sight, O my lord, the king!"

- A great leader is **always suspicious, at least cautious**

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

- We **don't check our brains at the door** as Christians
- **David: Still weak** in judgment, gave everything to Ziba
- After returning to Jerusalem he hears the other side of the story:

2 Samuel 19:24 (Read) Then Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to **meet the king**; and he had neither cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, **from the day** the king departed until the day he came home in peace. 25It was when he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "**Why did you not go** with me, Mephibosheth?" 26So he answered, "O my lord, the king, **my servant deceived me**; for your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself that I may ride on it and go with the king,' because your servant is lame. 27"Moreover, he has **slandered your servant to my lord the king**; but my lord the king is like the angel of God, therefore do what is good in your sight. 28"For all my father's household was nothing but dead men before my lord the king; yet you set your servant among those who ate at your own table. What right do I have yet that I should complain anymore to the king?" 29So the king said to him, "Why do you still speak of your affairs? I have decided, 'You and Ziba shall divide the land.'" 30Mephibosheth said to the king, "**Let him even take it all**, since my lord the king has come safely to his own house."

- **Ziba:** Opportunist at best; User, Slanderer, flatterer...empty shell
- Next: **A Blatant Enemy**

5When King David came to Bahurim, behold, there came out from there a man of the family of the house of Saul whose name was **Shimei**, the son of Gera; he came out **cursing continually** as he came. 6He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the mighty men were at his right hand and at his left. 7 Thus Shimei said when he cursed, "Get out, get out, **you man of bloodshed**, and worthless fellow! 8"The LORD has returned upon you **all the bloodshed 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. And behold, you are taken in **your own evil**, for you are a man of bloodshed!"

- **Shimei:** House of Saul; provoking David; kicking while he's

down

- **Accuses David** of bloodshed against Saul's house; Completely opposite of the truth; David had prevented bloodshed

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

- Sons of Zeruah: Abishai, Joab, and Asehel... **Da' boys**
- Abishai tries again on the way back

10But the king said, "What have I to do with you, O sons of Zeruah? If he curses, and if the LORD has told him, 'Curse David,' then who shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" 11Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my son who came out from me seeks my life; how much more now this Benjamite? Let him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him. 12"Perhaps the LORD will look on my affliction and **return good to me** instead of his cursing this day."

- **Mercy:** Not getting what we deserve; a reprieve

Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

13 So David and his men went on the way; and Shimei went along on the hillside parallel with him and as he went he cursed and cast stones and threw dust at him. 14The king and all the people who were with him arrived weary and he refreshed himself there.

- **Refreshed:** took a bath
- **Shimei:** Enemy not afraid to show it; Slanderer not knowing all the facts

15 Then Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, **entered Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.** 16Now it came about when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" 17Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" 18Then Hushai said to Absalom, "No! For whom the LORD, this people, and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain. 19"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.**"

- **Hushai the Archite:** A loyal friend to David; spying on Absalom
- **Mission:** To thwart Ahithophel's advice for taking over
- **Ahithophel:** Traitor; David's former chief advisor and grandfather of Bathsheba. A man **energized by vengeance...living on hate**

20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "**Give your advice.** What shall we do?" 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, "**Go in to your father's concubines,** whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself **odious to your father.** The hands of all who are with you will also be strengthened." 22 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.** 23 The advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one inquired of the word of God; so was all the advice of Ahithophel regarded by both David and Absalom.

- **Ahithophel:** Dick Cheney of Israel w/ regard advice
- User, Unabashed enemy, and a traitor...long day
- Sometimes we, like David, feel like the world is against us

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are **afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;**

APPLICATION: Dealing with Adversity from Others

- Every situation is different and must be handled as the Spirit leads

1 Corinthians 2:12 (Read) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, **combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.**

- God's Spirit instructs us when dealing with others
- **Listen "for" God then listen "to" God** for instructions on what to do and say regarding the person in question

- Though every situation is different, the goal is always the same; reconciliation (them and God ultimately) **Sacrificing for the greater good...their soul and ultimately God's glory**

2 Corinthians 5:19 (Read) God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the **word of reconciliation**. 20Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Common Principals:

- Some people just won't like us! We love people no matter what there response

Luke 6: 22 (Read) "**Blessed are you when men hate you**, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. 23"Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. 24"But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full. 25"Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. **26"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.** 27"But I say to you who hear, **love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.** 29"Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. 30"Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. 31"Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. 32"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33"If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34"If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. 35"**But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.** 36"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

- We are called to a Higher Standard that will glorify God

Matthew 5:10 (Read) "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and **falsely say all kinds of evil** against you because of Me. 12"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way

they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13"**You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless**, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

- Our reaction to those who hate us will make the gospel invitation tasty or tasteless

14"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.