

I. The Derision Of David By A Tactless Man (5-8)

- A. The words were passionate (5) - “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.”**
- B. The words were public (6) - “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.”**
- C. The words were provoking (7) - “And Shimei said as he cursed, “Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man!”**
- D. The words were preposterous (8) - “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.”**

II. The Decision Of David As A Trusting Man (9-12)

- A. He had encouragement to get even (9a) - “Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king...”**
- B. He had power to get even (9b) - “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?”**
- C. He had opportunity to get even (9c) - “Let me go over and take off his head.” **Not so subtle!****
- D. He had no desire to get even (10-11) - “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?’” 11 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...”**
- E. He knew the Lord was his defense (12) - “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.”**

III. The Discovery Of David As A Tested Man (13-14)

- A. Sometimes circumstances get worse before they get better (13) - “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.”**
- B. Though some may curse us, some stand by us also (14a) - “And the king, and all the people who were with him...”**
- C. There is refreshment during wearied times (14b) - “...arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself.”**

When receiving difficult, hurtful words we should do the following before responding:

- Consider the source: mules kick, pigs oink. If the character of the person who is doing the speaking is less than honorable, you may be able to dismiss the great majority of what was said.**
- Take time to discover whether anything that WAS said might be true and learn from it. In a box of rotten apples there may very well be one or two which are edible.**

- Discipline yourself not to react emotionally, be unwilling to match the verbal assault with one of your own.
- Develop a thick skin while continuing to keep a sensitive heart. Chances are, you will go through this again.
- Remember that there have been times when we have spoken an unkind word and needed forgiveness. Be quick to give the offender the forgiveness which is asked for.
- In mercy, don't keep records when one has spoken against you. God's grace keeps no records of wrongs done to Him by His children. We must do the same to those who have wronged us.