

The Return

2 Samuel 19

Pray

Last week we saw David's son Absalom formed an army,

- to overthrow David as king,
- But his rebellion was stopped & Sadly Absalom was killed by Joab,
- So David is on his way back to the city of Jerusalem.

David has just come through a very hard crisis in his life

- But God saw David through this crisis even though all the odds were against him
- God's hand was upon him, God answered David's prayer & preserved him.
- Absalom and his troops were defeated & Absalom ended up losing his life.
 - and it's a good reminder that anytime we rebel against our heavenly Father,
 - we're going to lose and if we continue to revolt, we could even lose our lives.

and if you're taking notes there are 6 things we want to look at

- First thing we want to look at as it pertains to the journey to Jerusalem by David
 - involves **the weeping by David**, in verses 1-8.
 - As David continues to weep and mourn for the loss of his son,

1 And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." 2 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." 3 And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" 5 Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, 6 in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well. 7 Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the Lord, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now." 8 Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.

back in chapter 18 after Absalom's death, David Weeped and mourned for his son.

- And Here he is continuing to weep and mourn for his son.
 - And of course, the death of a loved one, a family member is always grievous
 - and it causes us to mourn & weep.

But Joab tells David this excessive weeping isn't good b/c you're going to lose everybody

- because they feel like they have fought for you
 - and you are more interested in the loss of Absalom—
 - than over all that they have sacrificed for you to protect you

Joab tells David this is the same guy that just drove you out of Jerusalem

- this is the same guy that wanted to destroy you
 - and all these people have risked their lives gone into battle to protect you

David had loyal sacrificing supporters and they won the battle for David their king

- and for the good of Israel
 - and now they feel bad about their victory because David is overcome
 - with excessive weeping and mourning for Absalom

David needed Joab to shake him out of it b/c he was consumed by his grief

- and making his supporters who sacrificed so much not feel appreciated

Joab warns David that the people will desert you if you don't move on.

- this story teaches us a valuable lesson that our Behavior affects other people
 - in a major way
- his attitude put a bad taste in the people's mouths as it seemed
 - he wasn't very thankful for their effort in rescuing him from Absalom.

The truth is our attitudes will affect those around us

- So we need to be careful & set a good example b/c a bad attitude
 - Can lead to negative bad consequences

But David turned it around & snapped out of it.

Let's come to the second thing we want to look at,

- and that involves **installing Amasa by David**, In verses 9-15,
 - David installs Amasa as his new commander in the place of Joab.

He takes Joab out as commander of his army

- and puts Amasa who was the commander of Absalom's army in charge.

⁹ Now all the people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom. ¹⁰ But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now therefore, why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?" ¹¹ So King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back to his house, since the words of all Israel have come to the king, to his very house?' ¹² You are my brethren, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?"

David survived Absalom's attempted overthrow but he was not yet restored to the kingdom

The people had rejected David & kicked him out for Absalom but now he's dead

- so now the people are wondering what to do...
 - Should we bring back King David?

If you think about our own walks with God...

- have there been times where you sort of pushed away the king
 - and put your heart on a false king?
- Israel pushed away David and set their heart on a false counterfeit king

- And oftentimes we will only return to our true king
 - once our false king has been struck down

they are only coming back returning to David because Absalom's dead

And it shows us how fickle people really are. one minute they're cheering you.

- The next minute they're tearing you down

this is not new because they did the same thing to Jesus shouting Hosanna one week

- and next week crucify him!!!

all of us have these very bad Tendencies because all of our hearts are desperately wicked
Jeremiah 17:9 tells us

David asks a good question. He says to the people, why don't you bring the king back?

- that's a good question for all of us when we get distracted & off track.
 - Why don't you make it about Jesus again?

Its always a good idea to bring King Jesus back into our lives & make it about Him!

¹³ 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 the army before me continually in place of Joab.' "

Amasa had rebelled against David and was the commander of the forces of Absalom

- And Joab was the commander of Davids army

Now, I think David is really soured at Joab for disobeying his orders with Absalom,

- so he says to Amasa, you're going to be my new commander-- my new general.
 - Now this blew everybody's mind. It was not what they expected.

It's a good reminder for us when our King Jesus comes back

- He's going to reward us who were once His enemies even though we don't deserve it
 - we are going to rule and reign with Him in His Kingdom.

It reminds me of What God did with Saul who was Jesus greatest rebel

- No one every would of thought Saul would get converted
 - And be used in a mighty way for Gods kingdom!

1 Corinthians 1:27 God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

I love seeing this kind of restoration when somebody has been against you or God,

- And you win their heart & give them a position. It's such a testimony to God's love.

¹⁴ So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as the heart of one man, so that they sent this word to the king: "Return, you and all your servants!" ¹⁵ Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan.

david sent these two men & had them speak on his behalf

- to sway the hearts of Israel to bring him back

it's a picture how the lord works as God the father in heaven sent forth

- the word of God and the spirit of god
 - to us to sway our hearts to come back to him

some people wait for God to force them to come back to him

- but he doesn't work like that he's not going to force you
 - he wants you to choose yourself by your own free will
 - B/c that is true Love = true love is not forced

David said I cant force them but i'm going to woo them & persuade them

- Give them an offer they cant refuse

i'm going to show them how much i love them

- i'm going to reach out to them
 - so that we can come together in a relationship

David showed great mercy and compassion

- because David could have wiped the people out who sided with Absalom
 - But he said, you guys are bone of my bone. You're my flesh,
 - you're my own relatives

And in doing that, David really sets a good example for us

- because our natural tendency is to not be nice to our enemies once we're victorious.
 - I mean not us, but people at other churches have that mindset.

Peter tells us in **1 Peter 3:8-9**, Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

Romans 12:14, Paul said, **bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse.**

- David is really exhibiting that heart of compassion and that heart of mercy
 - against his very enemies,

Jesus sums it all up in **Matthew 5:44** when he says to **love your enemies**,

- and that's really the heart of Jesus and this is being manifested in the life of David.

Well back to second Samuel 19. Let's come to a third matter.

- **the confidence from David**, in verses 16-23,
 - David is very confident in who he is in the Lord,
 - in spite of those who come against him.

¹⁶ And **Shimei** the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hurried and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David. ¹⁷ There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before the king. ¹⁸ Then a ferryboat went

across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Now **Shimei** the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan.

Do you remember Shimei? we saw him a few weeks ago when David was leaving Jerusalem

- David was super sad having the whole kingdom taken away from him
 - Shimei looked at David when he was down
 - and he said i'm going to kick him a few times just when he's down
- and he stood off at a distance and he screamed & cursed at David
 - And threw rocks at David and his men & swore like a sailor
 - saying David you deserve everything that's come upon you

and David patiently endured it & one of his men came up to him

- and whispered in his ears saying David may I please kill that man
 - and David said no we won't kill him let the man live
- well now that David has won & he's back coming to the throne

Shimei is scared so he makes things right with David & bows down to David

¹⁹ Then he said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take it to heart. ²⁰ For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king."

so this guy is shaking in his boots. he's apologizing

- he says I'm sorry for what I did

You can hear the desperation in his voice he thinking i'm a goner

- you don't talk to the king like i talked to him

here we see a great example of repentance

- it was humble as he fell down before the king

secondly his repentance was honest

- he said I deserve to be punished, i know that i did wrong
 - David I'm not here to make any excuses
 - i'm asking for mercy

those are great words in the mouth of anybody who comes to god

- i know that i've sinned, god i'm not here to make excuses

And that's how we should come to the lord

1 John 1:9

²¹ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the Lord's anointed?" ²² And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?" ²³ Therefore the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him.

this is incredible because in these verses David shows us how to forgive people

- who have hurt us and thrown rocks at us

here we see why God called David a man after God's Own Heart

- **because we are most like God when we give and when we forgive**

This is so difficult! I have been in Davids shoes

- where people have thrown rocks at me
 - its hard to be the first one to initiate reconciliation
- **that's not the natural response but it's the Christlike response**
 - it's the way of Jesus!

David forgave a man who deserved to die

- because David was secure in his relationship with God
 - & knew God had forgiven him much

David took the high road. The spiritually mature road

- None of the things that he did moved or shook David. It didn't affect him at all.
 - **And this really blesses & encourages me**
 - **because it really doesn't matter what people say about me.**
- it doesn't bother me at all. Why? because I'm confident in who I am in the Lord.**
- **My security is in Jesus Christ. I don't care what people say or think**
 - **and neither should any of us because we're secure in Christ.**

I like when Paul was addressing the Ephesian elders in Acts chapter 20,

- as he was going through all of the difficulties he faced in his life,
 - and Paul faced a lot of difficulties & opposition.
 - He faced some death threats. He faced people coming against him,

And yet in **acts 20:24**, he said, **none of these things move me**,

- I'm not going to be shaken based on what people think or what they say or do.
 - I'm just going to continue doing what God's called me to do.
 - We just need to be faithful to Jesus & live for an audience of 1

let's come to a fourth matter, which is **the truth is told to David**.

- In verses 24-30, David is told the truth about Mephibosheth,

²⁴ Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

Here we see that Mephibosheth traveled to clear his name with David

- he had not trimmed his mustache he thought it was **No Shave November**

²⁵ So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?" ²⁶ And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,' because your servant is lame. ²⁷ And 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 eyes. ²⁸ For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the

king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?" ²⁹ So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.' "

when david heard the story from ziba the servant of mephibosheth

- he was so disappointed at hearing that mephibosheth had stabbed him in the back
 - But Ziba had lied to David & so Miphiboseth sets things straight
 - And tells David the truth

Mephibosheth goes on to say David you're like an angel of God in my eyes

- I never turned on you

the truth comes out that Zeba in fact had lied.

Now, this story reminds us We might be good at lying & hiding things.

- However, we're not hiding anything from God.

Hebrews 4:13 says, **there's no creature hidden from his side. All things are naked and open to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**

Proverbs 15:3, says, **the eyes of the Lord are everywhere, he sees the good and the evil.**

- We cant pull the wool over God's eyes and one day the truth will come out.

You remember when Moses was preparing the children of Israel

- to cross into the promised land under the leadership of Joshua,
 - 3 of the tribes didn't want to go,
 - they wanted to stay on the east side of the Jordan
 - and build houses and stay there.

And Moses said, okay, you guys can stay on the east side of the Jordan,

- but when we enter the promised land and fight the Philistines,
 - you need to come fight with us because if you do not come and fight with us,

Numbers 32:23, he said, **be sure your sin will find you out.**

- Our sins going to find us out one day. It's all going to come to light

1 Corinthians 4:5, **God will bring to light that which is hidden.**

- And if we think that somehow we can hide stuff from God, we are mistaken.

³⁰ Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

I am impressed by the heart of Mephibosheth here b/c he doesn't care about his stuff

- he cares about his king & master

are we like Mephibosheth or are we like Zeba

- Zeba was a taker & just wanted more stuff
 - But Mephibosheth said David the stuff doesn't matter to me

- I want to see you reign i want to see you rule over Israel

that's the heart god wants us to have b/c we get so caught up with material things

- But He wants us to have a real passion for our king Jesus over our stuff

it is very easy for us to get caught up with the things of the world

- because we're being bombarded all day with worldly things.

- You got to have this. You need more of that.

- You got to get a better one of those.

- And we fall into that so easily and pretty soon our focus is now on the world

Now, don't misunderstand. There's nothing wrong with having the things of the world.

- As long as we have them and they don't have us.

But if our goal is the world and the things of the world, we will be unsatisfied

1 John 2:15, says, **do not love the world nor the things in the world for if we love the world and the things of the world, the love of the father is not in us.**

- it boils down to priorities. What are we putting first in our lives?

- Are we putting the stuff first? Or Are we putting Jesus first?

Are we putting the things of the world above Jesus Christ?

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33**, **to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you**

- when we prioritize our life by putting Jesus Christ first and foremost,

- everything else just simply falls into place.

The fifth thing we want to look at is **the blessing by David**, In verses 31-39,

³¹ And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan. ³² Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man. ³³ And the king said to Barzillai, "Come across with me, and I will provide for you while you are with me in Jerusalem."

Now this guy was a wealthy man who had taken care of David when he fled the country.

- He was 80 years old

and David was so appreciative that when he comes back into power

- he says come and live with me in the palace

³⁴ But Barzillai said to the king, "How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?" ³⁵ I am today eighty years old. Can I discern between the good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any longer the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king? ³⁶ Your servant will go a little way across the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me with such a reward? ³⁷ Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, near the grave of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what seems good to you." ³⁸ And the king answered, "Chimham shall cross over with me, and I will do

for him what seems good to you. Now whatever you request of me, I will do for you.”³⁹ Then all the people went over the Jordan. And when the king had crossed over, the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place.

first he says thanks for the offer I’m blessed by your appreciation

- but I’m old you know those great dinners you throw at the palace
 - I can hardly taste that food anymore
- you know there are great concerts you have you there at the palace
 - I can hardly hear that anymore I can't enjoy it

I love how this man met David’s needs at this critical moment

- he was a man of great resources and he wisely used those resources
 - to support the servant of god and the cause of God

in Luke 12 Jesus spoke of a foolish man who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich towards god well barzelli wasn't like this at all

- He had a heart that said I’m going to lay up treasure in heaven

David was blessing others also. And I think this is important for us

- because We're always thinking about what can bless me.
 - We say I hope I get blessed today.
- we always think about how I can be blessed, what's in it for me kind of a thing,
 - when really the truth is living life like Jesus is all about blessing others.
 - It's about how can I bless & serve others like Jesus?

Who is God going to put in my path today that I can be a blessing too?

I have found in my life, and I'm sure you have as well,

- that when we are being a blessing,
 - that is when we in turn get blessed the most & experience the joy of the Lord.

Acts 20:35 says remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

let's come to the 6th and final thing and we'll wrap this up right here.

- And that involves the dispute over David, in verses 40-43,

⁴⁰ Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel. ⁴¹ Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, “Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David’s men with him across the Jordan?” ⁴² So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, “Because the king is a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king’s expense? Or has he given us any gift?” ⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, “We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more right to David than you. Why then do you despise us—were we not the first to advise bringing back

our king?" Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

so here we see all these people escorting David back to Jerusalem

- but now there's fussing and fighting

The 10 northern tribes, are mad at the tribe of Judah—

- for bringing David back as the king in Jerusalem

and unfortunately, this divisiveness

- will lead to a rebellion and the dividing of the nation of Israel & civil war

it just goes to show you that even though David is back all is not well

- there's always going to be trials that you go through as a Christian

I'm going to close with this story that's related to Israel receiving the king back

- David wasn't going to force himself upon them

- it's the same way in our relationship with the lord

maybe in some way you've been pushing Jesus out & putting distance between you and him

- well you need to welcome him back b/c he is not going to force himself upon you

- There is this famous painting that somebody painted about what Jesus said

- in the book of revelation 3:20 where he spoke to his people and he said

- Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him & he with Me.

somebody came up to that painter after he'd finished the painting

- and they were critical of the painting they said look here's Jesus standing at this door

- and he's knocking but you've made a mistake there's no knob on the door

- and the guy said he did that very deliberately

i didn't put a knob because it's on the inside it has to be open from the inside

- because Jesus is standing at the door and knocking

- he's waiting for us to open the door to receive Him in & invite Him

Pray & Share Gospel