

*King David*  
*Aftermath*  
2 Samuel 19

August 4, 2019 am

HDBC

**At the end** of the Civil War our nation attempted to address the massive task of rebuilding itself after the four-year conflict. Cities had been destroyed. Industries shattered. Families left with no means of support. In addition to this, there were thousands of freed slaves, most of whom had little or no education.

**From 1865 until 1877** there was a concerted effort to protect the rights of the freed slaves and to aid ravaged cities and communities. In addition to the need to rebuild infrastructures that were destroyed there was a need to reunite the nation, as a people. All of these would be difficult tasks. History has given a name to this period, **Reconstruction**. For a short period it looked as if it would work. However, particularly for the freed slaves, it was a colossal failure.

**What happens** immediately after war is as critical as what happens in war, particularly when the war is internal. What was needed at the end of the American Civil War was needed at the end of David's war with Absalom. David has won. Absalom is dead. 2 Samuel 19 records the **Aftermath**.

**There are five things** that David did that are important to note. Each one involved a different individual whom we have already been introduced to. We can learn a lesson from each one.

**1. Accepted a bold rebuke (1-7)**

I mentioned this last week. David had trouble getting over the death of Absalom and his mourning was loud, long and bothersome. They all understood his love for his son, but they also knew that many of them had gone to war and risked their lives to save the king from his son. To many, Joab, included, it seemed that David cared more for his rebel son than for the loyal men who went to war for him. It was killing morale in the nation and especially among his soldiers. **David needed an intervention!**

**It came in the form** of a confrontation by Joab. David's mourning was so pronounced that it turned what should have been a time of celebration into a time of humiliation (3). This could not continue. So, like Nathan earlier, Joab stepped in and boldly spoke truth to David.

**This took conviction and courage.** It was risky but so important. The more power a leader has, the more he or she needs people who will courageously speak truth. **Our president needs it. Our congressmen need it. Our governor needs it. Leaders at every level need people willing to tell them the truth, even when it is risky. They don't have that in Moscow, Beijing or Hanoi.**

**David listened and learned.** That's the mark of a good and wise leader. He recognized good advice when he heard it and he changed his behavior. This does not mean a leader should try to please every critic. That would not be leadership. But when the criticism is helpful, the leader should change.

## **2. Appointed a new commander (8-15)**

After the battle there was a lot of confusion among the people about what to do next. Even the people of Judah, who were the closest to David seemed hesitant to immediately restore the king to his rightful throne. So, David reached out to them, encouraging them to get moving. **(11-12)**

**He then made** a surprising decision. He appointing Amasa to be his new military commander in place of Joab. What makes this surprising, yet wise, is that he had been the commander of Absalom's army. Joab had disregarded his order to spare Absalom. In appointing the leader of the opposition army to now lead his army, he was acting aggressively to unite the people. Apparently it worked! **(14-15)**

## **3. Pardoned a guilty rebel (16-23)**

Remember Shimei? He was the relative of Saul who cursed David and threw stones at him when David and his people were leaving Jerusalem. At the time, David refused to allow his people to punish him. But now things are different. Absalom is dead and David is back in charge. What now?

**Shimei rushed** to David and fell on his face before him, begging for forgiveness and mercy. **(18-20)** One of David's men immediately spoke up

and pointed out that this man deserved to die. What he did was insulting at best and treasonous at worst. David pardoned the man, yet again!

**Shimei** has now been forgiven twice by King David. What an act of mercy! He was never more a man after God's heart than when forgiving the guilty!

#### **4. Restored an adopted son (24-33)**

A name that we are familiar with pops up once again in this account. Mephibosheth. He was a descendent Saul who received grace from David. In fact, David invited him to join his family and eat at his table. David adopted him into his family and invited him to eat at his table.

**When David left** Jerusalem, Mephibosheth did not go with him. Now that David is returning, Mephibosheth wanted to meet David and explain. **Ziba** a former servant of Saul, had reported to David that Mephibosheth had aligned himself with Absalom. This was not true and now Mephibosheth explained what happened. Listen to the exchange between them. **Read 24-30**

**David's response** is interesting. He asked Mephibosheth why he continued to speak of those things. This was a clear statement that he believed him. Mephibosheth's land had previously been given to Ziba when David heard that Mephibosheth had defected to Absalom. Now that the truth was known, he took half the land back and gave it to Mephibosheth. The reason he did not take it all back was that Ziba had been a great help to David, even though he also tried to ruin Mephibosheth with lies.

**I love his response.** He does not care about the land. His loyalty is to the king, not the land. As long as David is back on the throne, he is happy. The point here is that David restored his adopted son, Mephibosheth.

#### **5. Rewarded a faithful friend (34-39)**

Barzillai was one of three men who provided supplies to David and his people while they were outside the city and waiting until they could return.

**We learn** that he was a very old and very wealthy man. He was faithful to David even when it was not popular to do so. In fact it might have been deadly to do so. Now, David wants to thank this faithful friend by inviting him

to come to Jerusalem and be taken care of by the king for the rest of his life.

**He graciously declines** but sent his servant. David promised to do all for his servant that he would have done for him. This beautiful exchange ends with a beautiful act of friendship. **(39)** David refused to forget those who had acted on his behalf. He did not forget his friends.

### **Takeaways:**

**In David's response to Joab** we are reminded that we all have blind spots and need to be open to constructive criticism. Are you willing to listen to the criticism of others? Even when their motivation is wrong, there may be some truth to what they are saying. Look for that truth!

**In David's appointment of Amasa** we are reminded that everyone needs a fresh start and new beginning at some point. So glad God specializes in this toward us. We ought to offer it to others!

**In David's forgiveness of Shimei** we are reminded that God's mercy is irrevocable. When God forgives, He does so forever. Shimei deserved punishment but received forgiveness. Just because their situation changed for David did not mean his mercy had changed.

**In David's response to Mephibosheth** we are reminded that God's grace is irrevocable. His adoption into David's family was an act of grace that would not be revoked. My adoption into God's family is equally an act of irrevocable grace.

**In David's offer to Barzillai**, we are reminded that God is faithful to reward those who serve Him. God remembers and rewards. There will come a day when God will reward those who have been faithful to Him. We long for that day.