

**Message #21****II Samuel 16:1-14**

When you are going through low moments in life, you will soon see and learn who is really with you.

**AS DAVID CONTINUED TO TRAVEL THROUGH LIFE, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO LOVED HIM AND SUPPORTED HIM AND THERE WERE THOSE WHO LIED TO HIM AND RIDICULED HIM.**

David had been up on the summit of the Mount of Olives. There were some good people there who were with David. Ittai the Gittite; Zadok and his son, Abiathar and his son and Hushai were among those God raised up to support David and stand with David.

As he started down the mountain he is met by some other people. They are not loyal and true. David had his share of enemies all through his life.

**FACT #1** – Ziba comes to meet David. **16:1**

As David was coming down from the Mt. of Olives, he met Ziba, who was the servant of Mephibosheth. We may remember that Ziba had been appointed by David to take care of Mephibosheth (II Sam. 9:10).

When David appointed him, he did not get to go eat at David's table. Mephibosheth did, but not Ziba. He and his sons were supposed to work the land for Mephibosheth and take care of him.

Ziba had been a very faithful servant to the family of Saul (II Sam. 9:1-11). When he learned that David and his men were in the area, he put a saddle on two donkeys and packed them with 200 loaves of bread, 100 clusters of raisins, 100 summer fruits and one jug of wine.

He loaded these items and took them to David and offered them as a provisionary gift. David and his men were heading into the wilderness (II Sam. 15:23) and these supplies would seem to be helpful.

**FACT #2** – David questions Ziba. **16:2a**

David wanted to know why Ziba was traveling with these provisions. David may have been suspicious of the fact that maybe Ziba had run off with supplies that were supposed to be for Mephibosheth.

Furthermore, since Ziba had been closely associated with Saul, David was taking no chances here. Things were tense and he was not sure what Ziba was doing.

**FACT #3** – Ziba answers David. **16:2b**

Obviously people in Jerusalem were well aware of the fact that there was friction between David and Absalom and they were aware of the fact that Absalom was now in Jerusalem (15:37). Ziba said I brought the two donkeys so that when they are unpacked you could ride one. I brought the food and wine to help nourish those of your team who need it.

**FACT #4** – David questions Ziba about Mephibosheth. **16:3a**

David asks Ziba about the location of Mephibosheth, who was the grandson of Saul and the son of Jonathan. David wanted to know what happened to him. This is an important question because Ziba is giving away things that belong to Mephibosheth and David wants to know whether or not this was authorized by him. Good leaders ask questions and get to the bottom of things.

**FACT #5** – Ziba answers David. **16:3b**

Ziba told David that he was in Jerusalem. This part of his answer is true. But then he says he is in Jerusalem thinking God would give the kingship and kingdom back to Saul's family and he would become king. So Ziba tells David Mephibosheth is in Jerusalem waiting to become king of Israel. This is false.

In other words, he is saying that Mephibosheth is staying in Jerusalem because of this mess between you and Absalom and he thinks the result of this is that he will be put on the throne. The Kingship will go back to Saul's family and he is the heir apparent.

So what Ziba is doing is making Mephibosheth out to look bad and in order to make himself look good. He is trying to convince David that he is loyal to him, while Mephibosheth is not. This is all a fabricated lie. Mephibosheth was thinking no such thing (II Sam. 19:24ff).

**FACT #6** – David responds to Ziba's allegation. **16:4a**

What is sad is that David just believes Ziba without even checking facts. This was Jonathan's son and David should have at least had one of the five guys in Jerusalem who were on his side check it out.

David said since all of this came from the storehouses of the family of Saul, David says everything that was Mephibosheth's is now yours.

Now at this point, it appears as though David believes Ziba. He was taken in by a supposed loyalty. David took the food and wine, but apparently said Ziba could have all the land and things that were once Mephibosheth's.

David will modify this decision later and give Mephibosheth half the land, but in all reality he is believing the wrong guy (19:29).

When you get away from God and get into sin, your mind does not think right. You become emotional and sometimes irrational instead of factual.

**FACT #7** – Ziba responds to David. **16:4b**

Ziba falls down before David and identifies him as the king and asks for his favor and grace. He is putting on quite a show, acting as though he is a loyal servant of David.

It is significant to see that in II Samuel 9:6, 8, it was Mephibosheth who prostrated himself before David in honor of him, not Ziba.

At this point Ziba pulled off his con. He fooled David. But of course, he could not fool God.

**FACT #8** – Shimei  curses  David. **16:5-8**

As David and his men descended down the mountain, they were moving away from Jerusalem and they came to Bahurim, located about 1 ½ miles northeast of Jerusalem. Don't overlook the fact that David is now identified in **verse 5** as "King David." He is God's King and the events about to happen will not only prove it, but will take him back to Jerusalem.

According to **verse 5**, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul whose name was Shimei, who was the son of Gera, who came out and was cursing at David.

Now keep in mind that Ziba has just told David Mephibosheth is in Jerusalem waiting to become the next king (which is a lie), but now David is face to face with hostility with the family of Saul, so one would logically think probably it is all true. It is clear here that this relative of Saul is lending support to the idea that it was true.

Now Shimei does something here that will affect him for the rest of his life. When David eventually returns to Jerusalem, some of David's men will want to kill Shimei, even though he is repentant (II Sam. 19:18-21). When David was near death, he never forgot Shimei and he wanted Solomon to punish him (I Kings 2:8-9). Very early in Solomon's reign, Shimei will be executed (I Kings 2:41-46).

It will appear that he gets away with demeaning a man of God. But God keeps the careful record and what he said and did against David will come back to track him down.

According to **verse 6**, Shimei was coming out and is clearly very emotional. He starts assaulting David and his men physically and verbally. He obviously is not the brightest bulb in the family of Saul. You are one guy up against David and highly trained soldiers.

He started cursing David and throwing stones at him and at all the servants of David. Notice again in **verse 6**, David is King David.

The throwing of stones at David was probably some symbolic action of an O.T. law stoning execution. This was something the O.T. law prescribed (Lev. 20:2, 27; 24:14, 16; Num. 15:35; Deut. 13:10; 21:21; 22:21, 24). By doing this he is suggesting that David should be stoned.

The fact is, David and his men could have dropped this clown like a mosquito. Quite honestly this is one crazy man who is obviously out of his mind.

According to **verses 7-8**, he was yelling things to David:

- 1) Get out, get out - he wants him gone from Jerusalem, which David was doing.
- 2) You are a man of bloodshed. He is basically calling David a murderer.
- 3) You are a worthless fellow - In I Samuel this word “worthless” is used to describe Eli’s godless sons (I Sam. 2:12); the fool Nabal (I Sam. 25:17,25). This was the ultimate verbal insult.
- 4) God is returning upon you what you did to the family of Saul - this is God’s revenge.
- 5) You got your kingdom from Saul via bloodshed - many people believed this. Fact is David refused to lift a hand against Saul.
- 6) God has taken the kingdom away from you and given it to Absalom your son - this hasn’t happened and it will not happen.
- 7) Your own evil has finally tracked you down - Although God is sovereign and is permitting this to happen, Absalom is the one who is evil.
- 8) You are a man of bloodshed. Had that been true, Shimei would have been dead right here.

**FACT #9** – Abishai wants to kill Shimei. **16:9**

Abishai was one of the sons of David’s sister Zeruah (I Sam. 26:6-9; II Sam. 2:24; 3:30; I Chron. 2:16). He was loyal to David and he had heard enough from Shimei’s big mouth and he wanted to cut his head off right then and there. He said I can shut him up for good by taking off his head.

He called Shimei a “dead dog.” This was a way of saying this guy is nothing but trash. Abishai said why should we listen to this trash mouth verbally attack “my lord and the king?” Abishai says, I can shut this guy up by cutting off his head and I’ll do it right here and right now.

**FACT #10** – David responds to Abishai. **16:10-12**

David responded by addressing the “sons of Zeruiah.” This suggests that not only did Abishai want to cut the head off of Shimei, but also so did Joab.

**Response #1** - If God is prompting him to curse me, we should not question it. **16:10**

Now David probably is thinking about the consequences of his sin that God mentioned in II Samuel 12:11. God was going to raise up evil against him. David considered this part of the chastisement of God and decided to accept it if it were.

**Response #2** - My own son wants me dead, so it is not shocking that a Benjamite would. **16:11a**

David says look, my own son wants me dead so it is no surprise that this Benjamite wants me dead.

**Response #3** - Let him alone and let him curse for the LORD has told him. **16:11b**

David truly believed in the sovereignty of God and concluded the LORD had told him to do this.

**Response #4** - Perhaps God will turn this all around one day. **16:12**

David was no name it and claim it believer. He was wise enough to say “perhaps.” Perhaps God would grant David grace in this horrible situation. Perhaps God would turn this all around. Perhaps one day this very person would be saying good things about David rather than cursing him.

**FACT #11** – David and his men travel to a place where they could rest. **16:13-14**

David and his men traveled along a route that was about 20 miles and descended some 3,700 feet along the Jordan River and came to a spot tired, hungry and thirsty.

For much of the way Shimei was up on the side of a hill cursing David and throwing stones and dust at him (**v. 13**).

But we read in **verse 14** that when he and all the people arrived, they were refreshed.