

I. Introduction and review.

II. David shows mercy to his enemy Shimei. v. 16-23

- A. Shimei had cursed David as he fled for his life. 16:5-8,13
- B. Shimei wisely seeks to get back in David's good graces. 19:16-20
 - 1. Rather than trying to flee for his life he quickly rushes to see the king. v. 16-17
 - 2. He humbly pleads for mercy and forgiveness. v. 18-20
- C. Why does David show mercy? v. 21-23
 - 1. Justice demands that Shimei be put to death. v. 21 16:9 Ex. 22:28 Psalm 2
 - 2. It is common for leaders to be magnanimous in victory. I Sam. 11:12-13
 - 3. Shimei was a powerful and influential man from the tribe of Benjamin whose support David may have needed. v. 16-17,20
 - 4. Later David encourages Solomon to find a way to punish Shimei. I Ki. 2:8-9,36ff
- D. David's mercy to his enemies is a picture of Christ's mercy to His enemies. Lu. 6:36
 - 1. Jesus, like David, restrains His followers from taking revenge on His behalf. v. 22 Luke 9:54ff Mt. 26:51ff
 - 2. He prays that His torturers be forgiven. Luke 23:34
 - 3. Jesus saves His enemies from the deadly judgment we deserve. Ro. 5:10 Co. 1:21
 - 4. Jesus' grace and forgiveness is superior to that of David. Eph. 2:7
- E. Shimei portrays how rebellious sinners should approach God's triumphant King. Ps. 32:2,5 51:2,4,5,7,9 25:7
 - 1. Rather than running from God we should rush to Him to plead for mercy.
 - 2. The language Shimei uses with David is the same language David used with God in his Psalms of repentance. v. 19 Ps. 32:2,5 51:2,4,5,7,9
 - 3. God's anointed King is rich in mercy to repentant sinners. I Jo. 1:8-10 Isa. 55:6ff Heb. 4:16
- F. Shimei also illustrates how we should approach one another when we are in the wrong. Mt. 5:23-26 7:5
- G. David portrays how we should show mercy and forgive those who wrong us. 12:13 Ps. 32:2 51:4,7 Eph. 4:32 Mt. 18:21-35 Rom. 12:18-21 Col. 3:12-13 Luke 6:27-36

III. David is met by his (apparently) loyal servant Mephibosheth. v. 24-30

- A. Mephibosheth appears to have been terribly wronged. v. 24-26 9:1-13 I Sa. 20:14-17
 - 1. When David was fleeing Jerusalem, Ziba claimed that Mephibosheth had betrayed David, so David gave Mephibosheth's property to Ziba. 16:1-4
 - 2. Mephibosheth claims that Ziba had cruelly deceived and slandered him. v. 25-27
- B. David divides Saul's estate between Ziba and Mephibosheth. v. 28
 - 1. Did David do his kingly duty to ensure that justice is served? Pr. 25:2 18:17,13,15 Deut. 19:15 I Ki. 3:24-25
 - 2. Can David, or we, be absolutely certain of who is telling the truth?
- C. Application: Justice is not always served in this life.

1. You may be in the right, but unable to prove it. Deut. 17:6 19:15
2. Those in authority may fail to do their job. Ex. 23:8 Deut. 16:19
3. Because only God is all-knowing we, like David, may sometimes be unsure who is telling the truth.
4. Ultimately, justice will be served. Rom. 12:19

D. Mephibosheth teaches us how to respond to such disappointments.

1. He acknowledges that he has better than he deserves. v. 28 9:8 Eph. 2:1ff Ro. 6:23 Job 1:21-22
2. His ultimate joy and desire is not for things in this world, but for the presence of God's anointed King. v. 30,24b Ps. 16:11 Phil. 4 He. 13:5
3. Do you, like Mephibosheth, long for the triumphant return of God's anointed King? I Co. 16:22 Rev. 22:20
4. Mephibosheth is Christlike in how he bore up under apparent injustice and slander. I Pe. 2:21ff

IV. David seeks to reward his faithful friend Barzillai. v. 31-40

- A. Barzillai helped David, at great cost and risk, when he was fleeing from Absalom. v. 32 17:27-29 Psalm 2 Heb. 13:16 I Jo. 3:17f Ro. 12:10 Acts 2:45 4:32ff
- B. Barzillai further demonstrates his loyalty by coming out to greet David. v. 31
- C. David wishes to reward Barzillai's loyalty. v. 33-40 I Ki. 2:7
- D. Application (from Chantry): Barzillai exhibits many of the qualities of older saints of which those of us who are younger should be aware and sensitive.
 1. Old age diminishes capacity to enjoy worldly pleasures. v. 35a II Co. 4:16
 2. Some older people are worried about being a burden. v. 36b
 3. We should honor them. John 19:26 Mt. 15:4ff Pr. 16:31 20:29
 4. Most older people prefer to stay close to home in familiar surroundings. v. 37a
 5. Older people typically are preparing for death. v. 34,37 Phil. 1:21ff
 6. Older people can be a blessing to those who are younger. v. 38
 7. Older people, like Barzillai, can still do great things for the glory of God. v. 32 Ps. 92:12-14 Josh 14:10ff Luke 2:25ff
- E. How does this section make us think of Christ?
 1. Barzillai makes a great effort to be where the king is honored. v. 31
 2. Those who are loyal to God's anointed King will be rewarded.
 3. We, like Chimham, are blessed because of the faithfulness of another. v. 37,40

V. Concluding applications: II Co. 4:16-18

Discussion questions

1. How does Shimei's encounter with David point to our relationship with Christ?
2. How does David's treatment of Shimei illustrate how we should forgive others?
3. Is there someone whom you haven't yet forgiven?
4. Is there someone whose forgiveness you must seek?
5. Have you ever suffered the kind of injustice Mephibosheth appears to have endured?
6. How can you learn from Mephibosheth about how to deal with worldly losses?
7. Have you ever been in David's position when you really weren't sure who is truthful?
8. What can we learn about old age from Barzillai?
9. How should we be like Barzillai?