**The Lord Will Look Upon My Misery**

**2 Samuel 16:1-23**

**Key Verse 12**

**“It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me**

**his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.”**

**Introduction.**

**Usually our true color exposes at troubled times. It is not easy to keep our temper and faith at difficult times. Especially when people are accusing us, we are tempted to retaliate them at once. But through this passage David teaches us about what we should do at such a hard times. May the Lord help us to increase our faith in Jesus.**

 **1. Read verses 1-4. Who is Ziba and what does he have for David? (1-2) What does he tell David about Mephibosheth? (3)  What does David say? (4)**

**1-1) Read verses 1-4.**

**When David had gone a short distance beyond the summit, there was Ziba, the steward of Mephibosheth, waiting to meet him. He had a string of donkeys saddled and loaded with two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred cakes of raisins, a hundred cakes of figs and a skin of wine.**

**2 The king asked Ziba, “Why have you brought these?”**

**Ziba answered, “The donkeys are for the king’s household to ride on, the bread and fruit are for the men to eat, and the wine is to refresh those who become exhausted in the wilderness.”**

**3 The king then asked, “Where is your master’s grandson?”**

**Ziba said to him, “He is staying in Jerusalem, because he thinks, ‘Today the Israelites will restore to me my grandfather’s kingdom.’”**

**4 Then the king said to Ziba, “All that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours.”**

**“I humbly bow,” Ziba said. “May I find favor in your eyes, my lord the king.”**

**1-2)Who is Ziba and what does he have for David? (1-2)**

**2 Samuel 9:1-13 as a reference about who he is,**

**David asked, “Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”**

**2 Now there was a servant of Saul’s household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, “Are you Ziba?”**

**“At your service,” he replied.**

**3 The king asked, “Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God’s kindness?”**

**Ziba answered the king, “There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet.”**

**4 “Where is he?” the king asked.**

**Ziba answered, “He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.”**

**5 So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.**

**6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.**

**David said, “Mephibosheth!”**

**“At your service,” he replied.**

**7 “Don’t be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.”**

**8 Mephibosheth bowed down and said, “What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?”**

**9 Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul’s steward, and said to him, “I have given your master’s grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. 10 You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master’s grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table.” (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)**

**11 Then Ziba said to the king, “Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do.” So Mephibosheth ate at David’s[**[**a**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel%209&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8239a)**] table like one of the king’s sons.**

**12 Mephibosheth had a young son named Mika, and all the members of Ziba’s household were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king’s table; he was lame in both feet.**

**The meaning of “Ziba” is army, fight, or strength.**

**When David had gone a short distance beyond the summit, there was Ziba, the steward of Mephibosheth, waiting to meet him. He had a string of donkeys saddled and loaded with two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred cakes of raisins, a hundred cakes of figs and a skin of wine. 2 The king asked Ziba, “Why have you brought these?”**

**Ziba answered, “The donkeys are for the king’s household to ride on, the bread and fruit are for the men to eat, and the wine is to refresh those who become exhausted in the wilderness.”**

**1-3) What does he tell David about Mephibosheth? (3)**

**3 The king then asked, “Where is your master’s grandson?”**

**Ziba said to him, “He is staying in Jerusalem, because he thinks, ‘Today the Israelites will restore to me my grandfather’s kingdom.’”**

**2 Samuel 19 as a reference,**

**24 Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson, also went down to meet the king. He had not taken care of his feet or trimmed his mustache or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely. 25 When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, “Why didn’t you go with me, Mephibosheth?” 26 He said, “My lord the king, since I your servant am lame, I said, ‘I will have my donkey saddled and will ride on it, so I can go with the king.’ But Ziba my servant betrayed me. 27 And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king. My lord the king is like an angel of God; so do whatever you wish.28 All my grandfather’s descendants deserved nothing but death from my lord the king, but you gave your servant a place among those who eat at your table. So what right do I have to make any more appeals to the king?” 29 The king said to him, “Why say more? I order you and Ziba to divide the land.” 30 Mephibosheth said to the king, “Let him take everything, now that my lord the king has returned home safely.”**

**1-4) What does David say? (4)**

**4 Then the king said to Ziba, “All that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours.”**

**“I humbly bow,” Ziba said. “May I find favor in your eyes, my lord the king.”**

**2. Read verses 5-14. Who is Shimei and what does he do to David and his men? (5–8)  What does Abishai say to David? (9) What does David say about Shimei? (10-11) Why does he accept Shimei’s actions toward him? (12-14)  What do you think can be learned from what David says in verse 12?**

**2-1) Read verses 5-14.**

**5 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul’s family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. 6 He pelted David and all the king’s officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David’s right and left. 7 As he cursed, Shimei said, “Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! 8 The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!”**

**9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.”**

**10 But the king said, “What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’”**

**11 David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. 12 It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessinginstead of his curse today.”**

**13 So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt. 14 The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.**

**2-2) Who is Shimei and what does he do to David and his men? (5–8)**

**5 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul’s family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. 6 He pelted David and all the king’s officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David’s right and left. 7 As he cursed, Shimei said, “Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! 8 The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!”**

**Shimei was wrong because David actually treated Saul and his family with great love and graciousness. David was not a bloodthirsty man. David did not bring Saul and his family to ruin - Saul himself brought the family to ruin.**

**Later what happens to Shimei (2 Samuel 19) as a reference,**

 **He won over the hearts of the men of Judah so that they were all of one mind. They sent word to the king, “Return, you and all your men.” 15 Then the king returned and went as far as the Jordan.**

**Now the men of Judah had come to Gilgal to go out and meet the king and bring him across the Jordan. 16 Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David. 17 With him were a thousand Benjamites, along with Ziba, the steward of Saul’s household, and his fifteen sons and twenty servants. They rushed to the Jordan, where the king was.18 They crossed at the ford to take the king’s household over and to do whatever he wished.**

**When Shimei son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he fell prostrate before the king 19 and said to him, “May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind. 20 For I your servant know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first from the tribes of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king.”**

**21 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said, “Shouldn’t Shimei be put to death for this? He cursed the Lord’s anointed.”**

**22 David replied, “What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? What right do you have to interfere? Should anyone be put to death in Israel today? Don’t I know that today I am king over Israel?” 23 So the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” And the king promised him on oath.**

**2-3) What does Abishai say to David? (9)**

**9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.”**

**2-4) What does David say about Shimei? (10-11)**

**10 But the king said, “What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’”**

**11 David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, my own flesh and blood, is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to.**

**2-5) Why does he accept Shimei’s actions toward him? (12-14)**

 **12 It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessinginstead of his curse today.”**

**13 So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt. 14 The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.**

**2-6) What do you think can be learned from what David says in verse 12?**

 **12 It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.”**

**We are able to see David’s value system. He does not rely on either his own feeling or situations.**

**He put trust in the word of promise in the Lord. He relied on God’s faithfulness.**

**Covenant blessing he mentions here is in 2 Samuel 7.**

**Covenant- formal sealed agreement, God’s promise to him**

**When David recalls God’s promise, he does not trust in men’s loyalty.**

**In such a difficult time, he knows what he should rely on.**

**3. Read verses 15-19. What does Hushai say when Absalom comes to Jerusalem? (15-16) What does Absalom say to Hushai? (17) How does Hushai answer? (18-19)**

**3-1) Read verses 15-19.**

**15 Meanwhile, Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.16 Then Hushai the Arkite, David’s confidant, went to Absalom and said to him, “Long live the king! Long live the king!”**

**17 Absalom said to Hushai, “So this is the love you show your friend? If he’s your friend, why didn’t you go with him?”**

**18 Hushai said to Absalom, “No, the one chosen by the Lord, by these people, and by all the men of Israel—his I will be, and I will remain with him. 19 Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve the son? Just as I served your father, so I will serve you.”**

**3-2) What does Hushai say when Absalom comes to Jerusalem? (15-16)**

**15 Meanwhile, Absalom and all the men of Israel came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel was with him.16 Then Hushai the Arkite, David’s confidant, went to Absalom and said to him, “Long live the king! Long live the king!”**

**2 Samuel 15:32-34 as a reference,**

 **When David arrived at the summit, where people used to worship God, Hushai the Arkite was there to meet him, his robe torn and dust on his head. 33 David said to him, “If you go with me, you will be a burden to me. 34 But if you return to the city and say to Absalom, ‘Your Majesty, I will be your servant; I was your father’s servant in the past, but now I will be your servant,’ then you can help me by frustrating Ahithophel’s advice.**

**3-3) What does Absalom say to Hushai? (17)**

**17 Absalom said to Hushai, “So this is the love you show your friend? If he’s your friend, why didn’t you go with him?”**

**3-4) How does Hushai answer? (18-19)**

**18 Hushai said to Absalom, “No, the one chosen by the Lord, by these people, and by all the men of Israel—his I will be, and I will remain with him. 19 Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve the son? Just as I served your father, so I will serve you.”**

**4. Read verses 20-23. What does Ahithophel advise Absalom to do? (20–22)  How does this fulfill the prophecy the Lord told David through Nathan the prophet? (12:11–12)  Think about the consequence of David’s sins.  How is Ahithophel’s advice regarded? (23)**

**4-1) Read verses 20-23.**

**20 Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give us your advice. What should we do?”**

**21 Ahithophel answered, “Sleep with your father’s concubines whom he left to take care of the palace. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself obnoxious to your father, and the hands of everyone with you will be more resolute.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he slept with his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel.**

**23 Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel’s advice.**

**4-2) What does Ahithophel advise Absalom to do? (20–22)**

**20 Absalom said to Ahithophel, “Give us your advice. What should we do?”**

**21 Ahithophel answered, “Sleep with your father’s concubines whom he left to take care of the palace. Then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself obnoxious to your father, and the hands of everyone with you will be more resolute.” 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he slept with his father’s concubines in the sight of all Israel.**

**\*\*Ahithophel is Bathsheba’s grandfather (2 Sam 23:34, 2 Sam 15:12)**

**34 Eliphelet son of Ahasbai the Maakathite,**

**Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,**

**In the ancient world, taking the king’s concubines was not only an act of immorality. It was also an act of treason.**

**4-3) How does this fulfill the prophecy the Lord told David through Nathan the prophet? (12:11–12)**

**“This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”**

**4-4) Think about the consequence of David’s sins.**

**Although he was forgiven his sins by God’s grace, this was sin’s consequences.**

**It stems from bitterness. Ahithophel must have grudged against David who had murdered Uriah and took his grand daughter.**

**The kingdom of Israel suffer greatly si**[**mply to satisf**](http://studylight.org/desk/?q=2sa+23:34&t=en_nas&sr=1)**y** [**his longing fo**](http://studylight.org/desk/?q=2sa+15:12&t=en_nas&sr=1)**r bitter revenge.**

**This disgraceful incident also shows that God kept His promise to David**

**4-5) How is Ahithophel’s advice regarded? (23)**

**23 Now in those days the advice Ahithophel gave was like that of one who inquires of God. That was how both David and Absalom regarded all of Ahithophel’s advice.**

**In Conclusion)**

**Key verse 12 reads, “It may be that the Lord will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today.” David did not lose his focus at any situations. He fixed his eyes on Jesus. One thing we can learn from him is to keep his love relationship with the Lord at any situations. Especially he mentions about the words “covenant blessing.” No matter what happens to him, he never lose God’s trustworthy words of promise. 2 Samuel 7:28 Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.29 Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign Lord, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.” Often times we are tempted to throw in the towels becauase it’s not easy to make disciples and serve world campus mission. But it is God’s promise instead of a church’s agenda. May the Lord help each of us to increase our faith like David so that we may grow in your own image. Amen.**

**One word: The Lord will restore to me his covenant blessing!**