



“Broken”
-2 Samuel 16-

by Pastor Tim Dodson
at JF Believers Church
in Menomonie, Wisc
on December 26, 2018

Blaikie : *As David proceeds on his painful journey, there flows from his heart a gentle current*

of humble, contrite, gracious feeling. If recent events have thrown any doubt on the reality of his goodness, this fragrant narrative will restore the balance. Many a man would have been beside himself with rage at the treatment he had undergone. Many another man would have been restless with terror, looking behind him every other moment to see if the usurper’s army was not hastening in pursuit of him. It is touching to see David, mild, self-possessed, thoroughly humble, and most considerate of others. Adversity is the element in which he shines; it is in prosperity he falls; in adversity he rises beautifully. After the humbling events in his life to which our attention has been lately called, it is a relief to witness the noble bearing of the venerable saint amid the pelting of this most pitiless storm.

There are times that we cannot help but ask “why Lord?”

- Times when we are in deep trials and testing’s and there seems to be no reason . . .no justification, for having to endure such adversities.

Often we experience events or periods in our lives where we must endure a great deal of humbling and humiliation.

- Sometimes we have no choice, as the Lord works out our circumstances to humble us.
- But sometimes we have a choice and can, in defense, lash out in anger and pride
- ...or choose the course and direction of the road ahead so as to control much of the humbling event.
- Often, the humbling we experience is before our God and before our Lord.
- In such, often these experiences are the worst we could imagine, and we would at those times rather a thousand times over endure the humbling of man.

In this chapter, King David embarks upon a journey of humiliation as he flees into exile

- ...and his rebellious son Absalom forcibly takes the throne in Jerusalem.
- Through these events we again see a great deal of deceit and self-preservation going on amongst the people around David.
- He could have joined them in this display of “every-man-for-himself,” yet David did not.
- Despite his oft moral failings, David had a powerful attribute that kept him endeared in the eyes of his Creator.
- David understood that God was sovereign...and in such, David lived “humbled” before Him.

It seemed that God was *and is yet* able to use impure motives and sinful acts of men to accomplish his purposes.

- God is never surprised, never flabbergasted, never at a loss of what to do.
- We know that David was called to be a King by God.
- David was said by God to be a “man after my own heart.”
- Yet ironically, *as the author Blaikie said*, it seemed that throughout his life that it was not while he had everything going his way and had the world by the tail that he excelled.
- No, it was always when he was down and his ‘back was against the wall’ that David shined.
- Whether it was a giant to kill, or the utter humiliation of losing his kingdom to his deceitful son, ***David was at his best leaning on God.***

It seems that God used these very difficult times to bring David to greater maturity in his faith and practice.

- To keep him humble and moldable to *His* will and plans.
- God was using the “evil” of men and the world to bring about David's “good.”
- The life of Joseph in **Genesis 50** is certainly being acted out here also in the life of David, and often in our lives also.
- Whether we in our flesh appreciate it or not, *included in the “all things” which God employs to accomplish our “good” and His glory* are the trials and tribulations of this life.
- God did not allow these painful things to happen in order to destroy David, but to draw him near, *to make him humble and dependent.*

Often we have been so hurt by people around us that we find it difficult to trust anyone and we essentially become spiritually paralyzed.

- We see such events in our lives as singularly negative and we close off from the world and from God.
- Secondary emotions and aspects begin to encroach and we become angry, defensive, and isolated, *never seeing that these events are possibly the very hand of God,*
- ...and if we do, we don't see such as a positive but only negative and we even push away from God further in our defense.

Ziba, who David had only treated well, saw this as an opportunity to gain materially, positionally, and politically by exploiting an already painful situation.

- Ziba lied about the heart and words of Mephibosheth, and essentially “threw him under the bus” for his own personal gain.
- Sadly, there are many Ziba's out there will attempt to use you or even hurt you for personal gain.

- Ziba stuck it to David *and* Mephibosheth in one shot.
- Yet Matthew 5:9 says clearly that “*Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*”
- The Word of God and this passage specifically call upon us to exude humility and to acquiesce to the sovereign plan of God...to “*live peaceably with all men.*”
- But how do we rectify the rest of Romans 12:18 reminding us that such is to be determined by criteria: “*...If it is possible, ...as much as depends on you...*”
- We are told in Romans 14:19 “*Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.*”
- **Our** job it seems is the clear and faithful pursuit of such heart and action.
- We cannot however mandate a Godly reception or a humbled heart!
- Psalms 120:7 speaks of such saying: “*I am for peace; But when I speak, they are for war.*”
- Such an attitude or response from those on the outside make it all the harder to live out scriptural instruction and direction...
- “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...*” (Galatians 5:22)

The writer AW Pink said the following concerning this event with Ziba:

David grievously misjudging one who was affectionately attached to him. David was unwarrantably influenced by "appearances." He gave ear to an unconfirmed slander against an absent one. He at once believed the worst, without affording the accused any opportunity to vindicate himself. He was one to whom David had shown much kindness in the past, and now that a servant brought to him an evil report, the king accepted the same, concluding that the master had turned traitor.

Having been on the receiving end of such an event...I have stood in the shoes of Mephibosheth,

- ...and I very nearly lost one of the best friends in my life because of both the slanderous individual
- ...as well as the friend's quick response to believe what he was hearing without "waiting on the Lord" and checking the facts.

Then David came upon this guy Shimei.

- Shimei was not masking *his* heart and his intentions in "clandestine" acts!
- Shimei was obvious and overt!
- He physically followed David and those with him, shouting names, ridicule and accusations, all the while throwing rocks and kicking up dirt.
- Certainly we must note that Shimei was still attacking from the "cheap seats" instead of coming down and facing the people "face-to-face."
- But at least he was "honest" in his undisguised actions!
- Life has never stopped dishing these guys out either...men with nothing better to do with their time than throw mud and yell accusations.
- A young lady once told me about a particularly disgruntled *ex-attende* from this church that was shouting at her across the Walmart parking lot...denigrating her for her continued attendance here!
- So the Ziba's and the Shimei's are still "alive and well."

One might be apt to take the position that a person must defend themselves if Shimei's are attacking like crazy people

- and Ziba's are lying through their teeth to make gains at our expense.
- But David...again, a "*Man after the heart of God,*" exemplified the call to meekness for a child of God as he showed remarkable restraint.
- How did he do so?
- Did he just "grit his teeth" and take it?
- The secret seemed to lie outside of the actions of Shimei and Ziba, and lay in the absolute trust that David had in his God.
- Many of us will *say* we trust God, ***but what we mean is we trust him when things are good, comfortable and we clearly understand what He is doing and where He is going concerning us.***
- But once we are backed up against the wall, many of us will abandon God and our trust in Him in a heartbeat!

While God has foreordained all that comes to pass in this world,

- ...that does not mean that He regards the wickedness of men with complacency, or that He condones their evil.
- But we as individuals rarely grasp the "bigger picture" of the plan of God.
- We are apt to see the "good things" (IE- *the comfortable fleshly pleasing events*) as from God while the "bad things" (IE – *the painful fleshly uncomfortable and personally humbling issues*) are from Satan.
- Such an understanding is a deeply immature and even dangerous grasp of the person of Jehovah God and certainly our relationship with Him!
- Ultimately the righteous prayer *says* and *means* those words: "Lord, ***your*** will be done..."

Throughout the account of this chapter, we see situations and people in them that had to choose where they would stand.

- Some like Ziba were conniving for selfish gain,
- some like Shimei were spiteful because of personal bitterness and anger,
- some like Absalom was motivated by revenge and power.
- Others like Ahithophil stand in the shadows offering “advise” as a weasely third party,
- but some like Hushai acted out of great allegiance, risking his own life for his friend.
- **It’s the world in miniature.**
- A small “version” of life on this planet for all of us.

And through all of these things, David was essentially powerless!

- Yet *God* was not powerless!
- He was firmly in control.
- Never panicked. Never worried.
- Remember....He so often walks us *through* the valley of the shadow of death.
- Not *around* it, but *through* it!
- For it is only in those times that we will manifest who and what we are.
- Not for *HIS* benefit, but for ours.
- The question ultimately cannot help but come back to this: *If you and I are personally unable to render change and relief as we see it should be, would it not behoove us to lean on the only one who truly can?*
- The only one who is not deterred nor rattled...?

Psalms 9:9 says “**The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.**”

- It has been said that the pathway of humbling ourselves before God is the pathway of serving others;
- ...if we do not humble *ourselves*, God always seems to be humbling *us*.
- God wants us to be in a position where He can shower more grace upon us... for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble
- – *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you in His timing.*

1 Peter 2:22 - 24 “...*He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross...*”

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Have you ever endured a time of great humbling? (...*care to share?*)
 - What came out of that event?
- 2) What are some of the practical ways we can humble ourselves before the Lord?
- 3) When has the Lord turned humiliation into an occasion for thanksgiving in your life?
- 4) How do you see and understand the issue to loyalty and devotion in our culture today?
- 5) Have you ever had someone you trusted be disloyal and hurt you? How does that make you feel? What did you do about it?
- 6) Have **you** ever been someone who *was* trusted and was disloyal and hurt someone?
 - How does that make you feel?
 - What did you do about it?
- 7) When are we to passively “take it on the chin” and when are we to stand up and fight?
(*Note that David in Psalms asked often for the ability to kill his enemies...*)
 - NOTE THE TWO SIDES:
 - 1. Matthew 5:38-39 “*You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.*”
 - 2. Proverbs 25:26 – “*Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.*”
- 8) Do you think God uses you...*even in your discomfort and even pain*, for his grander purposes and plans...maybe to the extent of not even having anything to do with you personally?
 - Do you think that is fair?
 - Are you ok with such a practice?