

Welcoming King Jesus as Lord Each Day

Text: 2 Samuel 19

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 7pm

Series: The Life of David

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Theme: Open your Bibles to **2 Samuel 19**. The title of our message tonight is "Welcoming King Jesus as Lord Each Day". True happiness for the Christian is found in Christ's arms. We can only live in the holy of holies as we are **surrendered** to Him and **separated** from sin and **servicing** Him, carrying out His will each day. This is what the message is all about tonight.

Before we begin, let's pray. [Prayer for Guidance]

2 Samuel 19 gives us three figures that teach us of the Christian life:

- **Shimei** the rebel **surrenders** to David, and David has mercy on him. This teaches us of **salvation**.
- **Mephibosheth**, Jonathan's son, **stops** his comfortable living until David returns, and this teaches us of **sanctification**.
- Then we have **Barzillai** who never wavered in his faithful **service** for David. This teaches us of faithful **service** for Christ.

Review: Shimei remember *cursed* David and rejected him as king. There was only one way that Shimei could have stayed alive in David's restored kingdom. He came on terms of absolute surrender at the mercy of David.

Shimei pleads for mercy, but Abishai wants justice.

2 Samuel 19:21-24, "But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed? 22 And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I *am* this day king over Israel? 23 Therefore the king said unto Shimei, **Thou shalt not die. And the king sware unto him.**"

- I. **Shimei** the rebel **surrenders** to David, and David has mercy on him. This teaches us of **salvation** (**2 Samuel 19:21-24**).

Shimei could return to the kingdom! He was reconciled with His king! Though he deserved to die, the king's words protected Shimei. No matter what anyone felt, Shimei was as safe as the king himself.

- A. **Robert Dabney Illustration**. Do you struggle with your worthiness to be a part of Christ's kingdom? As Shimei to David, none of us is worthy to be part of Christ's kingdom. Even the greatest Christians are prone to fear when they look inward.

Robert Dabney, an amazing preacher of the nineteenth century lay dying, he felt terrible doubts about his faith in Christ. A dear friend of his, C. R. Vaughn gave him the secret of all faith. I want you to know that secret tonight.

He wrote in a letter to R. L. Dabney upon his death bed:

When they [Christians] want more faith, or want to know whether the faith they have is the right sort of faith, instead of looking at *the things* to be believed, they turn their eyes inward and scrutinize their *faith*. They want to see something in their faith to trust in, something that will *certify* their faith. Of course, self-examination is all right, but not when it practically substitutes faith for our Lord, grace and righteousness...

Now, suppose a traveller comes to a bridge, and he is in doubt about trusting himself to it. What does he do to breed confidence in the bridge? He looks at the bridge; he gets down and examines it. He doesn't stand at the bridgehead and turn his thoughts curiously in on his own mind to see if he has confidence in the bridge. If his examination of the bridge gives him a certain amount of confidence, and yet he desires more, how does he make his faith grow? Why, in the same way; he still continues to examine the bridge. Now, my dear old man, let your faith take care of itself for awhile, and you just think of what you are allowed to trust in. Think of the Master's power, think of his love; think how he is interested in the soul that searches for him, and will not be comforted until he finds him. Think of what he has done, his work. That blood of his is mightier than all the sins of all the sinners that ever lived. Don't you think it will master yours? Think of his great righteousness: will it not avail for all you hope to gain? That great work is enough; it needs not to be supplemented; it meets every demand. It warrants you to come into the King's very presence, assured of welcome, because you can come in the name of the King's Son. ...Think of the Master when you want your faith to grow.

...May God give you grace, not to lay too much stress on your faith, but to grasp the great ground of confidence, Christ, and all his work and all his personal fitness to be a sinner's refuge. ...Think of the bridge!

We fear because we look to the quality of our faith instead of the power of our Saviour!

- B. You can surrender because God is **good** and wants to do you good. God does not want to do you harm!

God's holiness and justice is provoked when you sin, but look at the deep, deep love and mercy of God, that He bids you to come to Him as a sinner.

Romans 8:32, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

He goes on to say...

Romans 8:35-39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or

sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Let me give you three illustrations of this. One are the words of John Newton.

1. **John Newton** near the end of his life (he died in 1807) wrote this:
My memory is nearly gone;
but I remember two things;
That I am a great sinner, and
that Christ is a great Saviour.
2. And then listen to the last words of **John Bunyan**:
Weep not for me, but for yourselves. I go to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will, no doubt, through the mediation of his blessed Son, receive me, though a sinner; where I hope we ere long shall meet, to sing the new song, and remain everlastingly happy, world without end. Amen.¹

Listen, it is not your strong faith that saves you, but you looking to a mighty Saviour who intercedes for you.

Death is coming, but the Scripture says that not even death will separate you from the love of Christ.

3. **Christian as He faces the River of Death.** I was struck by the struggle that comes at the end of Pilgrim's Progress, as Christian is dying and crossing the River of Death to enter the Celestial City.

Then *Hopeful* replied, "Be of good cheer [*be courageous*], my brother, for I feel the bottom and it is firm." Then said *Christian*, "Ah my friend, the sorrows of death have totally compassed [*surrounded*] me, so that I shall not see the land that flows with milk and honey." And with that a great darkness and sense of horror fell upon *Christian* so that he could not see ahead of him.²

Here, to a large degree, he also lost his senses so that he was unable to remember or talk intelligently about any of those



Christian crossing River of Death

¹ Bunyan, *Works*, I, p. lxxiii.

² Ps. 18:4-5; 116:3.

sweet refreshments that he had experienced while traveling on pilgrimage. Rather all of his present talk tended to reveal the present terror of his mind and the fear that he would perish in that *River* and never gain entrance into the *Celestial City*. Here also, those who were able to stand by observed that he was greatly troubled with thoughts about the sins that he had committed, both before and after he became a pilgrim. It was also noticed that he was disturbed with visions of hobgoblins [*demons*] and evil spirits; his words would reflect this over and over again.

Therefore *Hopeful* struggled here in his attempts to keep his brother's head above water; yes sometimes *Christian* would seem to have sunk down for good, and then after a short while he would rise again seeming half dead. *Hopeful* would also attempt to comfort him, saying, "Brother, I see the gate, and men standing nearby to welcome us." But *Christian* would answer, "It is you, it is you they are waiting for; you have been hopeful ever since I first knew you." "And so have you," said *Hopeful* to *Christian*. "Ah brother," replied *Christian*, "surely if I was right [*with the King*] he would come to my rescue; but on account of my sins, he has brought me to this snare to abandon me."

Then said *Hopeful*, "My brother, you have quite forgotten the text where it speaks of the wicked, 'There is no band [*pain*] in their death, but their strength is firm; they are not troubled as other men, neither are they plagued like other men.'³ These troubles and distresses that you are experiencing in these waters are no indication that *God* has abandoned you; rather they are sent to test you as to whether you will recall to mind evidences of his past goodness, and now rely upon him in the midst of your present trials."

Then I saw in my dream that *Christian* was in deep thought for a while, so that *Hopeful* spoke to him further, "Be of good cheer, *Jesus Christ* makes you whole." And with that, *Christian* exclaimed with a loud voice, "Oh I see him again! And he tells me, 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overflow you'" (**Isaiah 43:2**).⁴

If there is someone struggling to gain assurance here tonight, remember it is not your surrender that saves you. It is Christ. Keep looking to Christ not your ability to walk across the bridge. Look and live. By looking and trusting that Christ can save you, you will be born again. Christ will live in you.

Transition: Shimei surrendered to David and found mercy. We've seen how we need to surrender to Christ and look to Him, not only when we were saved, but each day.

II. Now we must move on to **Mephibosheth** in **2 Samuel 19:24-30**. Mephibosheth teaches us about **separation from the world** and pilgrim living. He is not comfortable being away from his master's table.

³ Ps. 73:4-5.

⁴ John Bunyan. *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Christian Classics, 2004), 129-130.

2 Samuel 19:24-30, "And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came *again* in peace. 25 And it came to pass, when he was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? 26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant *is* lame. 27 And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king *is* as an angel of God: do therefore *what is* good in thine eyes. 28 For all *of* my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king? 29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. 30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house."

- A. Like Mephibosheth, we must live separate lives from this world. We are pilgrims and cannot remain comfortable in this world. **Verse 24** says he "came down to meet the king, and had neither dressed his feet, nor trimmed his beard, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came *again* in peace". He was not comfortable in a place where Absalom was king! He refused to live life as normal. He lived as a pilgrim and a stranger in the typical way they would mourn at that time.

Remember when Christ's followers were rebuked by the Pharisees for rejoicing with Jesus. What was Christ's answer? "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast" (Matthew 9:15).

We mourn for this world. We weep that Christ is not ruling and reigning in every heart.

1. But God must also work on us because we are prone to love this world.

Application: Sometimes God will send you hardships to learn that this world is not something to enjoy and be trusted. God's purpose in all that he sends our way is to make us uncomfortable in this world and totally at rest only in His arms.

John Calvin said,

"It must be admitted that our heart is never seriously inclined to wish for and to meditate on the future life unless it has first thoroughly learned to forsake the vanities of the present world...Therefore if we have any concern about eternity, we must put forth our most diligent efforts to free ourselves from our temporal chains. Now, since the present life has numerous attractions, and much pleasure, beauty, and sweetness to delight us, it is most necessary for our highest interest that we should frequently be called away from it [through hardships].⁵

⁵ John Calvin. *Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1952), 69-70.

- B. As pilgrims separated from this world, we see count all things **loss** for Christ. As long as Mephibosheth had David as king, he didn't care about how much money he had or how well he lived.

Mephibosheth was tested by Ziba. Ziba had lied to David and said that Mephibosheth stayed back because he wanted Saul's kingdom to be restored (See **2 Samuel 16:3-5**).

Of course it wasn't true. Mephibosheth loved David and was in mourning for him until he was restored.

Let's look at it in **2 Samuel 19:25**, "...it came to pass, when he [Mephibosheth] was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? 26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame."

So Mephibosheth pleads his case. Look at **verse 28**, "For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king? 29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. 30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, **Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.**"

Mephibosheth said, "Let Ziba take all, as long as I can eat with my king!"

Application: Can you say that nothing on this earth compares to the beauty and glory of Christ? Do you say with David, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand [somewhere else]. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (**Psalm 84:10**).

Mephibosheth didn't bother fighting with Ziba about anything earthly. He was willing to give it all up that He might be with the king.

It is a struggle to remember the worthlessness of the riches around us in this age of materialism. But you must guard your heart from the toys and the pleasures and distractions of this world, because they will steal your love for Christ!

Say with David, "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee" (**Psalm 73:25**).

Say with Paul: "for me to live is Christ" (**Philippians 1:21**)! Is there anything else that takes his place?

Mephibosheth was willing to give it all to Ziba. Some of you fear the king taking full control of your life because you are afraid of the sacrifice.

- III. Finally we come to **Barzillai**, and we see faithful **service** to Christ—Barzillai was a wealthy man, and he and his family comforted David in his exile. Those who welcome the king are with Him in both popularity and persecution.

2 Samuel 19: 31-32, "And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan. ³² Now Barzillai was a very aged man, even fourscore [80] years old: and he had provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man."

When the king asked him to come with him, Barzillai said because he was old he would be a burden to the king, but he gave him his own son to serve him. And we read in **verse 39**, "And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place."

After Barzillai's faithful service to David in feeding him in the wilderness, David blessed Barzillai. Isn't it amazing that Barzillai was a man of means by the grace of God, and he used his means for the grace of God.

Brethren, "To whom much is given much will be required". But God will reward you for all that you use for Him. Whatever you have use it for Him. And one day you will hear "Well done thou good and faithful servant" (**Matthew 25:23**)!

Conclusion: Come to Christ in surrender. Live as a pilgrim separate from the world, and serve Him with all that you have. This is how you welcome the king.

One day Christ will come again and bring His kingdom to earth. This earth will pass away. Serve Him, love Him, surrender to His every wish, live holy and separate lives until He comes!!