

Message #26**II Samuel 19:1-40**

We have been going through Deuteronomy and two verses we saw this morning said this: “Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it” (Deut. 10:14).

“For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty and the awesome God... (Deut. 10:17).

What those verses communicate is that God is the sovereign God who is in control of everything. He is the sovereign God who controlled things that happened to David before his sin and after his sin. He is the God who permitted David to leave Jerusalem and He is the God who would bring David back to Jerusalem.

This is an amazing chapter of the sovereignty of God and an amazing chapter of the grace of God.

When we carefully look through this chapter, we see a key theme that is repeated at least five times is the theme of “**bringing back the king**” (19:10, 11, 12, 15, 41).

Obviously this is a key moment in the sovereign plan of God and this is a key moment in the sovereign work of God. God is about to bring David back as His king and completely restore him to being the king.

Ever since that episode with Bathsheba, in II Samuel 11, things had not gone well for David as king. In fact, the nation became divided and there was one hostile conflict after another.

David repented of his sin. He truly came to terms with it. So now God decides it is time to bring David back and restore him as king and begin the process of healing the nation.

IN AMAZING GRACE, GOD SOVEREIGNLY BEGINS THE RESTORATION PROCESS OF BRINGING DAVID BACK TO BE KING IN JERUSALEM.

This text can give hope to any who may have previously fallen. You can be greatly used again. It may take time and you may go through some very lonely and humiliating moments, but if you will purpose to honestly deal with the sin and obey God, the process of restoration will begin and who knows where you will end up.

RESTORATION PART #1 – Joab reproves David and advises him to praise the people who saved his life. 19:1-8

When Absalom was killed, it should have been cause for national celebration. But what David did started confusing the people. Now David is just beginning to get his wobbly legs back. But to this point he didn’t have them.

I am sure part of the reason for his grief in the loss of Absalom is that he realizes that he was somewhat responsible by his sin. He knew God had promised turmoil within his family and he is living with the reality of that and was weeping and mourning and grieving.

The truth is, Absalom made his own choices. He was the one who arrogantly and proudly promoted himself. He was the murderer and rapist and self-promoter. He was the proud son who would not submit himself to the word of God or even his own dad. So even though David felt bad about his own sin, Absalom was responsible for his own demise.

Now this had been a great victorious day for the thousands who fought. These people had risked their lives for David and they came back to the city of Mahanaim and instead of coming back to a great celebration, they felt like they had to hide because they had done something wrong.

Here was David weeping for Absalom in front of the people who had given him victory and destroyed his enemies. In **verse 4**, we learn that David was loudly crying out “O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son.”

According to **verse 5**, Joab came to David and reproved him. He basically says what in the world are you doing? You have put some mourning covering on your family and you appear to love those who hate you and hate those who love you. Joab says you are shaming the very people who fought for you.

It is true David had lost a son, but these people had made tremendous sacrifices to give him victory. He should have realized that Absalom did evil against God, against him and against this kingdom.

Joab warned David that if he did not get up and go out and speak kindly and honorably to the people who supported him and fought for him, you will lose the support of everyone (**19:7**).

Joab said you will be in a far worse position than you ever were at any time in your life. Even when you were young and were running from Saul, you had those who supported you. You risk losing all of the support that you have ever had.

According to **verse 8**, David went and sat before the people and all the people came before the king. Israel had all fled and they were all gone so the people who were left were those who supported David and fought for David.

Long before we were in ministry, we were actively involved in a local church. We would be there at every service. Every once in while on a Sunday night the crowd wouldn't be too large. More than once, we would hear a minister scold the people that the crowd was pathetic. I used to think well why are you scolding us, because we are here. Why don't you wait until some Sunday morning and scold the people who aren't here. You don't want to punish the people who are faithful. That is what Joab was saying here.

RESTORATION PART #2 – David moves from Mahanaim to the Jordan River. **19:9-15**

As David was beginning the process of heading to Jerusalem, he made some key decisions that would send a strong and positive message to Israel.

According to **verse 9**, all the people from the tribes of Israel were quarreling. There were those on the side of David and there were those who were still on the side of Absalom.

The people realized that David had delivered them from many enemies, he had delivered them in past years from the Philistines and they were arguing about why he had left the Promised Land to the east side of the Jordan running away from Absalom (**v. 10**).

All leaders of Judah and Israel should have united to bring David back to Jerusalem. David knew it was important for him to get back to Jerusalem, so according to **verse 11**, he sent a message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests telling them to speak to the elders of Judah and inform them that the leaders of the tribes of Israel wanted him back.

David says ask the elders of Judah why they have not invited me back yet (**verse 12**). **David was from the tribe of Judah (Matt. 1:1-2) and if any group should have wanted him back and supported him, it should have been these guys.** Now one reason why they had not invited him back yet was because the leaders of Judah were probably wondering what David would do to them.

So according to **verse 13**, what David decided to do was to appoint Amasa to be commander of the army, in place of Joab. Amasa had been Absalom's general, whose job had been to go find David and kill him.

Now David was appointing him to be in charge of his military and he was replacing Joab. This would make a statement that David had the support of those who previously had supported Absalom.

Now one must wonder and ask why replace Joab? One answer is because if Joab disobeyed an order and killed Absalom and did not take him alive, then he also could turn on the king. In fact, it will be Joab who will murder Amasa (20:4-13).

RESTORATION PART #3 – David grants his mercy to Shimei. **19:16-23**

Shimei, a Benjamite, came to meet David with 1,000 men. Also with him were Ziba, the land manager for Mephibosheth (9:1-10), plus his 15 sons and 20 servants. They were all there to meet David.

They had some sort of cargo boat that was loading the king's household across the Jordan. This was certainly showing everyone that they were united in their support of David.

We may recall that Shimei is the nut job who deserved to be killed for the way he treated, demeaned and cursed David (II Sam. 16:5-8; Ex. 22:28). He had yelled horrible things and threw rocks and dirt at David, and frankly he deserved to die.

In fact, Abishai, who was standing right there, was prepared to kill him (19:21). He wanted to kill him earlier and cut off his head (16:9). Now he wants to finish the job.

But Shimei did something that apparently touched David's heart as he was about to cross the Jordan:

1) He fell down before the king (19:18).

2) He asked the king to not consider him guilty and remember his wrong (19:19).

Notice he is guilty but he asks David to not calculate him as guilty or remember his guilt.

3) He confessed his sin (19:20).

Frankly this is a good pattern to follow for any who have sinned against God:

1) Bow down before God.

2) Ask God to forgive and calculate you as not guilty and not remember the sin.

3) Confess the sin.

As we mentioned, when Abishai saw this (v. 21), he wanted to put him to death because he dared to curse "the LORD'S anointed."

David responded in **verses 22-23**. David said in pure grace, I am the king and you shall not die. No man will be put to death today. This will be a day of pure grace forgiveness.

Shimei had a track record of hating authority but David kept his word, and he warned Solomon to keep his eye on him (I Kings 2:8-9).

RESTORATION PART #4 – David grants his mercy to Mephibosheth and Ziba. 19:24-30

We may recall that when David became king, he decided to turn Saul's property over to Mephibosheth, and have Ziba and his sons and servants run it.

We may also remember that Ziba lied to David, so David gave him all the property of Mephibosheth. Word spread that David was coming back so Ziba showed up to help David cross the Jordan (19:17).

Mephibosheth knew that Ziba had lied about him and he wanted an opportunity to speak to David, so according to **verse 24**, he went to meet David. He had been so upset that David had left Jerusalem that he had not shaved his mustache or washed his clothes. He wanted David to know that he would not do this until David came back.

According to **verse 25**, David wanted to know why he hadn't met him on the mountain and went with him. Mephibosheth said because Ziba said that he would go and tell you because I was lame, I didn't come (**v. 26**).

That is not what Ziba said. He said the reason Mephibosheth wasn't there was because he was waiting to become the next king (**16:3**). Mephibosheth is telling David he lied to you. He said I view you as like an angel of God and you are the one who gave me everything I have (**v. 27-28**).

Well David listened to Mephibosheth and he realized he made a mistake in giving all the land to Ziba. He promised no one would die that day so according to **verse 29**, David decided to give half to Ziba and half to Mephibosheth.

This is almost Solomonic. Divide it in half and see what the people say.

Well **verse 30** says that Mephibosheth said, "he can have it all." He said I am not here for monetary gain; the only thing I want is for you to be safely back in Jerusalem.

RESTORATION PART #5 – David grants a reward to Barzillai and his family. **19:31-40**

Barzillai was a very wealthy landowner who met David and supplied him with many things that met his needs and the needs of those with him (II Sam. 17:27-29). When he heard that David was moving to Jerusalem, he came to see him. He was an old man as **verse 35** points out.

He didn't want a thing from David; he just came to see David. He was an 80-year-old man when this happened and David wanted to take him to Jerusalem and take care of him the rest of his life.

But Barzillai refused and said, "I am too old to move." Older people don't like to pull up their roots and move and relocate. At his age, he could just enjoy the final days of his life.

However, Barzillai was willing to send his son Chimham to take his place (I Kings 2:7).

Barzillai didn't need it so he was willing to let someone else have the opportunity.

According to **verse 38**, Chimham crossed over with the king and went with David to Jerusalem.