

How Will You Meet the King?

2 Samuel 19:14-17, 24, 31, 20:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. 2 Samuel 19 finds David returning to his home in Jerusalem after a forced exile caused by the rebellion of Absalom, his third oldest son.
1. Absalom has now been killed and the king is returning to take his rightful place on the throne of Israel and rule over a somewhat united kingdom.
 2. Oddly so, David’s return finds the people of Israel at odds over his return.
 - a. Some are prepared for his return and are glad to see him.
 - b. Others are not so prepared and thus not so glad to see him.
- B. **2 Samuel 19:14-17, 24, 31, 20:1** - ¹⁴ . . . They sent word to the king: “Come back, you and all your servants.” ¹⁵ Then the king returned. When he arrived at the Jordan, Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and escort him across the Jordan. ¹⁶ Shimei son of Gera, a Benjaminite from Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David. ¹⁷ There were 1,000 men from Benjamin with him. Ziba, an attendant from the house of Saul, with his 15 sons and 20 servants also rushed down to the Jordan ahead of the king
- ²⁴ Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson, also went down to meet the king. He had not taken care of his feet, trimmed his moustache, or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely
- ³¹ Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim and accompanied the king to the Jordan River to see him off at the Jordan
- ^{20:1} Now a wicked man, a Benjaminite named Sheba son of Bichri, happened to be there. He blew the ram’s horn and shouted: We have no portion in David, no inheritance in Jesse’s son. Each man to his tent, Israel!
- C. In our lesson text, we are presented with five different people who met the King. Zilba . . . Shimei . . . Mephibosheth . . . Barzillia . . . Sheba
1. Each with a different attitude and from a different point of view.
 2. Perhaps you will find that these attitudes are somewhat representative of attitudes that will present when we meet the King of Kings at the end of time. Yes, our King will be coming again in the future.
 - a. **John 14:1-3** – “Let not your heart be troubled . . .”
 - b. **Acts 1:9-11** – “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 - 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,
 - 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- c. **Revelation 22:20** – “. . . “Come Lord Jesus.” (12 words before the Bible ends, & next to last verse in the Bible)
- 3. The truth is this, just as not everyone met King David in the way when he returned from exile, Not everyone will meet our Lord in the same way as well. May these thoughts challenge you to answer the question, “How Will You Meet the King?”

SOME WILL BE WORRIED 2 Samuel 19:17 (**Zilba & Shimei** Shim-e-uh)

- A. When David returned to Jerusalem, one of the people who met him was a man named Ziba. Zilba had some reasons to be worried.
 - 1. When David left Jerusalem, Zilba came to the king and brought him food and other necessities (2 Samuel 16:1-4). In and of itself that sounds good.
 - 2. However, in the process of giving food to David, Zilba took time to slander the name of Mephibosheth, and by doing so he obtained all the property that belonged to Mephibosheth.
 - 3. What’s the real problem here . . .
 - a. He did so under false pretenses.
 - b. He lied to the King of Israel in an attempt to deceive him.
 - c. Therefore, Zilba was worried and rightly when he saw the king coming.
- B. Sadly, Zilba is representative of religious people who are guilty of hypocrisy . . . claiming to be one thing while living the very opposite.
 - 1. His real character suggested that he be worried. The king held the power of life and death over him.
 - 2. Should our Lord return today, many would be exceedingly worried about their condition before Him, knowing the concealed character in their lives that is about to be revealed before the whole of all mankind.
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:10** – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 - b. **Romans 14:12** – “then each of us shall give account of himself to God”
- C. Let us briefly note Shimei (Shim-e-uh)
 - 1. Like Zilba, Shimei had reason to be worried when the king returned.
 - a. When David left the city, Shimei had followed after David, cursing him as he did. 2 Samuel 16:5-13
 - b. Now that David has returned, Shimei is forced to face the king.
 - c. Shimei had parted with the king on his own terms (taunting him, cursing him, belittling him) as if they would never be any future contact, responsibility, and accountability for what he had said and done.
 - 3. There is a day of accountability for how we have treated our returning King.
- D. Like Zilba and Shimei, many will be very worried the King returns.

SOME WILL BE WAITING 2 Samuel 19:19-30 (**Mephibosheth**)

- A. Among those who came to meet David was Mephibosheth.
1. He had been misrepresented by his servant, Zilba.
 2. Mephibosheth has not washed or shaved since David left Jerusalem. I imagine a lot of people would like to see that change in him.
 3. Apparently he had spent his time in mourning over the king's absence and in waiting for his return. There is a very good reason for this.
Mephibosheth's story is told in 2 Samuel 9:1-13
 - a. A descendant of Saul.
 - b. David had had every right to kill him, but instead David had taken the crippled man and took into his own family and treated him as one of his own sons.
 - c. His love for the king was based on what the king had done for him.
- B. There are those who truly desire for the King of King to return so that eternity with Him in Heaven can begin.
1. They truly love Him.
 2. They have scripturally obeyed Him.
 3. They have faithfully served Him.
 4. They have been His faithful servants with longings in their hearts for His return. **Hebrews 9:28** – “Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

SOME WILL BE WORKING 2 Samuel 19:31-40 (**Barzillai**) Bar-Zill-ay-igh)

- A. Barzillai was another of those who came to meet David when he returned to Jerusalem . . . And he does so with great joy and happiness.
1. He is eighty years old and he still comes to welcome the king home.
 2. Not much more is known about this man the Bible calls “great” in 2 Samuel 19:32.
 - a. However, the Bible does give us one glimpse into his life.
 - b. It seems that when David was away in exile that Barzillai was faithful to his service to the king and was instrumental in seeing that the king's needs were met. 2 Samuel 17:27-29.
- B. Will you be found working and serving faithfully when our King returns?
1. Having faithfully obeyed the gospel.
 2. Having faithfully served the needs of others.
 3. Having faithfully assembled to worship God.
 4. Having kept focused that you are a child of the King of the universe.
- C. Although Barzillai was an elderly man, he kept working for the king. Note:

One of the true measures of an employee is how he or she works when the boss is not around. Barzilla was indeed a faithful worker for his king.

SOME WILL BE WITHOUT 2 Samuel 20:1 (**Sheba**)

- A. There was one other fellow who met David when he came back . . . His name was Sheba.
1. He is described in 2 Samuel 20:1 as “son of Belial.”
 2. This phrase refers to “a person who is a rebel or a wicked man.”
 3. Sheba had one thing in mind, one goal in life . . . To overthrow David and see his ousted from the throne of Israel.
 4. Sheba hated David and even tried to lead Israel in rebelling against David.
 5. In response, David’s generals went after Sheba and he was finally killed. 2 Samuel 20:22.
- B. The man Sheba represents all of those who make themselves enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. They may not set out to become enemies of the King.
 2. They may not even consider themselves to be enemies of the King.
 3. They would not willfully choose a conscious decision to become an enemy of the King.
 4. A failure to obey the King and serve the King makes one an enemy of the King whether the offender realizes it or not. For many it does not seem to be such a big thing to fail to do the simple things Christ has asked us to do.
 5. **Romans 8:7** – “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”
- C. When Jesus comes again, there are those who will find themselves in the same position as Sheba . . .
1. On the outside when they could be on the inside.
 2. Outside the circle of the saved when they could be inside the circle of the saved.
 3. Rejected when they could have been accepted.
 4. Shut out when they could have been invited in.
 5. Lost when they could have been saved.

CONCLUSION:

- A. When the King returns . . .
1. Some will be **WORRIED** Zilba & Shimei were.
 2. Some will be **WAITING** Mephibosheth was
 3. Some will be **WORKING** Barzillia was
 4. Some will be **WITHOUT** Sheba was
- B. We need to be **WAITING** and **WORKING** Not **WORRIED** and **WITHOUT**.

1. The five foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 allowed themselves to be caught off-guard.
2. A lovely hymn we sing asks this question: “When Jesus comes will He find you watching?”
3. God has told us that a day will come when Jesus will appear again.
 - a. We have been warned: **Acts 17:31** – “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
 - b. Jesus observed in **Matthew 25:13** – “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”
 - c. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:36** – “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”
- C. The good news is that the Kings’ coming does not have to be bad news for you! 2,000 years ago the Son of God went to a cross at Calvary on the outside of Jerusalem so you would not have to be outside of Heaven.
- D. How will you meet the King? He will find you in one of these situations:
 1. Worried that He has returned?
 2. Waiting and anticipating His return.
 3. Working when He returns.
 4. Or, will you be without when He returns?
- E. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**