
RELATED SCRIPTURES

2 Samuel 16:1–5 | 1 Peter 4:12–14 | Psalm 51:3–12

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 8.25.24**SUMMARY**

While still the anointed king of Israel, David finds himself on the run—yet again. Absalom, one of David’s sons, fueled a rebellion that took hold of Jerusalem, causing David to flee. While on the run, David and his men received desperately needed replenishment from Ziba—one of Saul’s former servants, who had dishonest motives of his own (2 Samuel 16:1–4). The relief from Ziba’s gifts didn’t last long as David and his men then encountered Shimei, a part of the clan of the fallen king, Saul. Shimei meets David with accusations, insults, and flying stones—he curses the king, presumably blaming him for the death of Saul and others from Saul’s clan (and perhaps others). Shimei essentially tells David, “It serves you right that your son pursues you!” The Mosaic law prescribes, “You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people” (Exodus 22:28), and therefore, David’s men made the request to “take off his head” (2 Samuel 16:9). However, David asks his men to stand down citing that *the Lord* sent Shimei to curse him. Undoubtedly, David’s men were as surprised by his response as we might be. Would God send someone to do something—such as curse the king—which the scriptures forbid? At the very least, David understood something of God’s sovereignty; God allowed this circumstance—from Absalom to Shimei—to precisely unfold as it did. God *ordains* what comes to pass. However, with God’s chastisement for his sins (which are many), David also remembers God’s promise of forgiveness, “the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing today” (2 Samuel 16:12). With this understanding of God’s mercy, Shimei was left alone as he continued with his cursing and stone-throwing. This picture whispers Christ’s gospel, which affirms this truth: Through our sufferings and failures, the Lord dispenses his mercy and redemption.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of 2 Samuel 16:5–14.

What is your reaction to David saying Shimei’s curses were from God? Did God make Shimei sin? Or did he use Shimei’s sin for his divine purposes? Can you see and explain the difference?

Is there any benefit to remembering sins of your past for which the Lord has already forgiven you? What benefit could there possibly be in this?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.