

2 Samuel 19: VV notes for March 15

[Chapter 19](#) covers a lot of ground. After the war there are a lot of things to sort out and David is not in the best head space. This chapter records David's interactions with a number of different characters but all along the way, the seeds of division are observed.

Verses 1-8: Joab Rebukes David

David is the undisputed overall hero of 1 and 2 Samuel, however, in this section David falters – again. David has been a bright and shining hero but at other times, he has been the villain, going dark. But he never quite loses his humanity and ability to see himself, not a fantasy version of himself, but his real self. He understood what he did to Bathsheba and Uriah. But now David is crumbling with grief and it affects everyone around him.

Read verses 1-4 and discuss:

- Why did David publicly show such grief in this situation – given that he was a king who had just been victorious?
- How would you feel as one of David's soldiers?
- How should we deal with grief?

Read verses 5-7. Joab rebukes David, pointing to all who have been saved that day. David seems to have tunnel vision, seeing only Absalom's death, and ignoring everything else that had been gained.

- Was Joab right to rebuke David?

In verse 8, David appears to pull himself together and goes out to the city gate and the soldiers come to him.

- Discuss the impact of this simple act.

Verses 8.5-18: David returns to Jerusalem

There appears to be much confusion and discussion about what to do about David as king now that Absalom is dead. This war has created a great deal of chaos in Judah and Israel. David must rebuild trust in his kingdom and him as king. David sends a letter to the elders of Judah asking them why they have not accepted him back as king. He also makes a promise to Amasa to take Joab's place as leader of the army.

- Discuss.

Verses 16 – 23: David shows Mercy to Shimei

Shimei asks for mercy from David for his past actions. Abishai again declares that Shimei should die because "he cursed the Lord's anointed." However, David again rebukes Abishai, distancing himself from the "sons of Zeruiah", calling them his adversaries.

- If Abishai and Joab are loyal to David, why does David rebuke them and treat them as adversaries?
- What message do you think David's forgiveness of Shimei sent to Israel?

Verses 24-30: David and Mephibosheth

We see here the other side of the story of Mephibosheth and Ziba. We end up with a he said, he said situation though. Either Ziba has acted deceptively, taking advantage of the war to gain land and resources for himself; or, Mephibosheth is speaking deceptively to get back into David's good graces.

- Who do you believe and why?
- What do you think of David's solution?

Verses 31-40: David's kindness to Barzillai

This is a nice story. We haven't heard of Barzillai and his son Kimham but they seem to be the perfect examples of Jewish hospitality and they are rewarded for what they have done. It is also another example of how David interacts with those around him.

- Discuss

Verses 41- 43: An argument arises

An argument arises between the people of Judah and the people of Israel. This is a continuation what started in verses 8-18. David stops at Gilgal and the men of Israel feel slighted that David crossed the Jordan with his own men/kin and did not wait for other important people in Israel. National/tribal jealousies and sensitivities arise and foster a division that was seeded by Absalom's uprising.

- How do you think David handled this reunification and what might have been done differently.
- Are there any other points you would like to make.