

II SAMUEL 19; May 4; David Returns to Jerusalem

ANALYSIS:

1. Why was the great victory of David's army over Absalom's army turned into mourning for David's men? _____
2. Who did David promote to be his chief captain of the army in place of Joab? _____
3. What three things did Mephibosheth not do all the days that King David was gone from Jerusalem? _____
4. How did David judge between Mephibosheth and Ziba? _____
5. What senses of Barzillai no longer worked very well at his old age of 80 years? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

In the previous chapter Joab had rebelliously disregarded David's clear command to not harm Absalom. In this chapter he offers the king some very timely advice and wise counsel that undoubtedly saved the king from further fragmentation of his kingdom and loss of his kingly reputation. David was shaming his trusted followers by continuing to mourn in the face of such a great victory. Joab was the only one who went and spoke plainly to the king. Joab told David that it seemed like he valued the life of Absalom more than the lives of all his faithful servants. Joab pointed out that his trusted servants would not stay with him if he showed so little concern for their lives compared to the life of the rebellious Absalom. Finally, Joab told David what he needed to do in order to show the people that he did appreciate their sacrifices and faithfulness for him and his kingdom. Joab was the wise counselor and David was wise to hearken to his counsel (Pro 12:15). What Joab did was not easy but it was the right thing to do!

Are you prepared to give wise counsel when it is needed? Or are you like all of David's counselors who did not speak up when the king needed timely advice? Proverbs 15:23 says, "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!" Also, Proverbs 24:26 tells us, "Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer." Are you ready and able to give a wise and proper answer to those in need? May we study his word so that we will have wise answers ready for those who need our counsel.

HELP:

1. Because David continued to weep and mourn for his dead son, Absalom (vv 1-4).
2. David promoted Amasa as chief captain in Joab's place (v 13).
3. Mephibosheth did not dress his feet, trim his beard, or wash his clothes (v 24).
4. David divided Mephibosheth's land equally between Mephibosheth and Ziba (v 29).
5. Barzillai could no longer taste what he ate or drank, and he could no longer hear the voices of singers (v 35).